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PATRIOTIC IAS

THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

26 MARCH 2025

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26_03_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

1. Battle of Panipat is a symbol of Maratha bravery, says Fadnavis

पानीपत का युद्ध मराठा वीरता का प्रतीक है, फडणवीस ने कहा

2. Activists walk along banks of Rushikulya to oppose dam

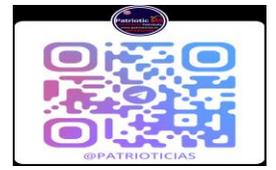
रुशिकुल्या नदी के किनारे कार्यकर्ताओं का पैदल मार्च बांध का विरोध

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Battle of Panipat is a symbol of Maratha bravery, says Fadnavis

GS Paper I: History

Abhinav Deshpande

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said that the Third Battle of Panipat was a testament to the bravery of the Marathas and not a reminder of their defeat. Speaking in the State Assembly during a debate on the 'Last Week Motion' initiated by the Opposition, he spoke on the Marathas' valour in the historic battle against Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali in 1761.

Mr. Fadnavis also informed the House that the Maharashtra government is constructing a *Shiv Smarak* (memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj) in Agra. Additionally, land is being acquired in Panipat, Haryana, for a memorial

commemorating the Marathas' role in the battle.

However, Opposition Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MLA Jitendra Awhad questioned the need for a memorial at Panipat, arguing that it marked a Maratha defeat. "Panipat is neither a symbol of our bravery nor our defeat. It only reminds me of loss. There is no memorial of defeat in the world," Mr. Awhad remarked.

Countering this, Mr. Fadnavis reiterated that the battle was a reflection of Maratha courage. He recalled how, at the time, the emperor in Delhi was paying 'chauth' (tribute) to the Marathas. When Abdali captured Delhi, he sought Maratha intervention to reclaim the city.

Battle of Panipat is a symbol of Maratha bravery, says Fadnavis

पानीपत का युद्ध मराठा वीरता का प्रतीक है, फडणवीस ने कहा

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said that the Third Battle of Panipat was a testament to the bravery of the Marathas and not a reminder of their defeat.

महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस ने मंगलवार को कहा कि तीसरा पानीपत युद्ध मराठों की वीरता का प्रमाण था, न कि उनकी पराजय की याद।

• Speaking in the **State Assembly** during a debate on the '**Last Week Motion**' initiated by the **Opposition**, he spoke on the **Marathas' valour** in the historic battle against **Afghan ruler Ahmad Shah Abdali in 1761.**

राज्य विधानसभा में विपक्ष द्वारा शुरू किए गए 'लास्ट वीक मोशन' की बहस के दौरान, उन्होंने 1761 में अफगान शासक अहमद शाह अब्दाली के खिलाफ ऐतिहासिक युद्ध में

मराठों की वीरता पर बात की।

- **Mr. Fadnavis** also informed the House that the **Maharashtra government** is constructing a **Shiv Smarak (memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj)** in Agra. **श्री फडणवीस** ने सदन को यह भी बताया कि **महाराष्ट्र सरकार आगरा में छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज का शिव स्मारक बना रही है।**
- Additionally, land is being acquired in **Panipat, Haryana**, for a memorial **commemorating the Marathas' role in the battle.** इसके अलावा, **हरियाणा के पानीपत में मराठों की भूमिका को याद करने के लिए एक स्मारक के लिए भूमि अधिग्रहित की जा रही है।**



Opposition's Reaction

विपक्ष की प्रतिक्रिया

- NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) MLA Jitendra Awhad questioned the need for a memorial at Panipat, arguing that it marked a Maratha defeat.
राष्ट्रवादी कांग्रेस पार्टी (शरदचंद्र पवार) के विधायक जितेंद्र आव्हाड ने पानीपत में स्मारक की आवश्यकता पर सवाल उठाया, यह तर्क देते हुए कि यह मराठा पराजय का प्रतीक है।
- "Panipat is neither a symbol of our bravery nor our defeat. It only reminds me of loss. There is no memorial of defeat in the world," Mr. Awhad remarked.
"पानीपत न तो हमारी वीरता का प्रतीक है और न ही हमारी पराजय का। यह मुझे केवल हानि की याद दिलाता है। दुनिया में पराजय का कोई स्मारक नहीं होता," श्री आव्हाड ने कहा।

Fadnavis' Counterargument

फडणवीस की प्रतिक्रिया

- Mr. Fadnavis reiterated that the battle was a reflection of Maratha courage.
श्री फडणवीस ने दोहराया कि यह युद्ध मराठा वीरता का प्रतिबिंब था।
- He recalled how, at the time, the emperor in Delhi was paying 'chauth' (tribute) to the Marathas.
उन्होंने याद दिलाया कि उस समय, दिल्ली के सम्राट मराठों को 'चौथ' (कर) अदा कर रहे थे।
- When Abdali captured Delhi, he sought Maratha intervention to reclaim the city.
जब अब्दाली ने दिल्ली पर कब्जा कर लिया, तो उसने मराठों से शहर को पुनः प्राप्त करने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करने का अनुरोध किया।



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Activists walk along banks of Rushikulya to oppose dam

GS Paper I

The Hindu Bureau

BHUBANESWAR

A 10-day padayatra covering nearly 100 villages along the banks of the Rushikulya river in Odisha's Ganjam district concluded on Tuesday, with activists raising a call to halt a proposed dam, warning that it would obstruct its natural flow.

"The Pipalpanka forest serves as the primary water source for the Rushikulya River. However, reservoirs have long been constructed on each of its key tributaries, preventing them from contributing any water to the Rushikulya during the summer months," Prafulla Samantara, president of Lokshakti Abhiyan and a Goldman Environmental awardee, said. "The dam will obstruct the flow from Pipalpanka to the Ganjam mouth of the Bay of Bengal from November to June, causing the river to dry up. This will disrupt its ecology, render all lift irrigation pumps inoperative, and leave tanks and wells without water as groundwater levels decline," he said.

Activists walk along banks of Rushikulya to oppose dam

रुशिकुल्या नदी के किनारे कार्यकर्ताओं का पैदल मार्च बांध का विरोध

A 10-day padayatra covering nearly 100 villages along the banks of the Rushikulya River in Odisha's Ganjam district concluded on Tuesday, with activists raising a call to halt a proposed dam.

ओडिशा के गंजाम जिले में रुशिकुल्या नदी के किनारे फैले लगभग 100 गांवों को कवर करने वाली 10-दिवसीय पदयात्रा मंगलवार को समाप्त हुई, जिसमें कार्यकर्ताओं ने प्रस्तावित बांध को रोकने की मांग उठाई।

• Activists warned that the dam would **obstruct the natural flow of the river.**

कार्यकर्ताओं ने चेतावनी दी कि यह बांध नदी के प्राकृतिक प्रवाह को अवरुद्ध कर देगा।

Concerns over the Pipalpanka forest

पीपलपंका जंगल को लेकर चिंता

• "The **Pipalpanka forest** serves as the **primary water source** for the **Rushikulya River**," said **Prafulla Samantara**, president of **Lokshakti Abhiyan** and a **Goldman Environmental awardee**.

लोकशक्ति अभियान के अध्यक्ष और गोल्डमैन पर्यावरण पुरस्कार विजेता प्रफुल्ल सामंतरा ने कहा, पीपलपंका जंगल रुशिकुल्या नदी के लिए मुख्य जल स्रोत के रूप में कार्य करता है।

• He added that **reservoirs have already been constructed on key tributaries**, preventing them from **contributing water to Rushikulya during summer months**.

उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि **मुख्य सहायक नदियों पर पहले से ही जलाशय बनाए जा चुके हैं**, जिससे वे **गर्मियों के महीनों में रुशिकुल्या को जल देने में असमर्थ हो जाते हैं**।

Impact of the proposed dam

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- “The dam will obstruct the flow from Pipalapanka to the Ganjam mouth of the Bay of Bengal from November to June, causing the river to dry up,” Samantara warned. सामंतारा ने चेतावनी दी कि बांध नवंबर से जून तक पीपलपंका से बंगाल की खाड़ी के गंजाम मुहाने तक के प्रवाह को रोक देगा, जिससे नदी सूख जाएगी।
- This would disrupt the river’s ecology, render all lift irrigation pumps inoperative, and cause groundwater levels to decline, leaving tanks and wells without water. इससे नदी की पारिस्थितिकी बाधित होगी, सभी लिफ्ट सिंचाई पंप निष्क्रिय हो जाएंगे, और भूजल स्तर गिर जाएगा, जिससे तालाब और कुएं सूख जाएंगे।

TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, and International Relations))

1. Govt., Opposition call for collegium system reform
सरकार और विपक्ष ने कॉलेजियम प्रणाली में सुधार की मांग की
2. Centre Drops Import Duty on Goods for EV, Phone Batteries; Lok Sabha Passes Finance Bill
केंद्र ने EV, फोन बैटरियों के लिए सामान पर आयात शुल्क हटाया;
लोकसभा ने वित्त विधेयक पारित किया
3. SC to hear Katchatheevu case on Sept. 15
सुप्रीम कोर्ट 15 सितंबर को कच्चातीवू मामले की सुनवाई करेगा
4. SC considers question of timeline for Speakers to decide on defections
सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पीकर द्वारा दलबदल पर निर्णय लेने की समयसीमा पर विचार किया
5. Parliament passes Bill to replace Boilers Act
संसद ने बॉयलर्स अधिनियम को बदलने वाला विधेयक पारित किया
6. Row in LS over govt. claim that T.N. gets more MGNREGS funds than U.P



लोकसभा में विवाद: सरकार का दावा कि तमिलनाडु को यूपी से अधिक मनरेगा फंड मिलता है

7. Centre must discuss river water release with Bengal

केंद्र को बंगाल के साथ नदी जल रिलीज पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए

8. No reciprocal tariffs imposed by the U.S. on India, says Centre

अमेरिका ने भारत पर कोई पारस्परिक शुल्क नहीं लगाया, केंद्र ने कहा

9. India is the safest place for minorities, says Union Minister

भारत अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित स्थान है, केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा

10. 10 months after NEET paper leak, NTA yet to fill five new positions

नीट पेपर लीक के 10 महीने बाद, एनटीए अब तक पांच नए पद नहीं भर पाया

11. The 'Great Abandonment' of Afghanistan

अफगानिस्तान का 'महान परित्याग'

12. The Canadian election, shaped by Trudeau and Trump

टूडो और ट्रंप के प्रभाव में कनाडा का चुनाव

13. A bad omen for public trust in vaccines

टीकों में जन विश्वास के लिए एक बुरा संकेत

14. India's Approach to Citizens on Death Row Abroad

विदेशों में मौत की सजा पाए भारतीय नागरिकों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण



Govt., Opposition call for collegium system reform

Current system lacks transparency, say both sides after a meeting of Rajya Sabha floor leaders chaired by V-P Dhankhar; Leader of the House Nadda to have a one-on-one meeting with floor leaders to try and arrive at a 'solution'; Leader of the Opposition Kharge urges the government to clarify its stance on the NJAC Act, struck down by the SC

GS Paper II: Judiciary

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar chaired a meeting of Rajya Sabha floor leaders on Tuesday in the context of recovery of half-burnt Indian currency notes at the official residence of the High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma on March 14, building ground for another intervention by Parliament into judicial appointments.

While both the Centre and the Opposition concurred on the need for an alternative to the present collegium system of appointments, which the two sides said lacked transparency, the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress president, Mallikarjun Kharge,

placed the onus on the government to clarify its position.

At the end of the inconclusive meeting, it was decided that BJP president and the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha J.P. Nadda would have a one-on-one meeting with all floor leaders to try and arrive at a "solution."

Earlier in the day, Mr. Dhankhar, on the floor of the House, said that the discovery of half-burnt notes was "undoubtedly serious" and it was a "very critical issue that is agitating the minds in branches of governance." Referring to the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act passed by Parliament, he said that if the mechanism for judicial appointments had not been struck down by the Supreme Court, things would



Jagdeep Dhankhar before conducting the proceedings of the House during the Budget Session in Parliament on Tuesday. ANI

have been different. The NJAC Bill ratified by 16 Assemblies and assented to by the President in December 2014 was struck down by the Supreme Court in October 2015.

"Now, it is befitting the occasion to reiterate [that it] was a visionary step. And imagine if that had taken place, things would

have been different," Mr. Dhankhar said.

He also questioned Parliament's relevance in the situation.

'Very critical issue'

"We will come back to the House on this very critical important issue that concerns much beyond the judicial mess. It concerns

Panel begins inquiry, visits residence of judge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A three-member committee of judges on Tuesday began its in-depth inquiry into the allegation that "sacks of half-burnt currency" were found

after dousing a fire in a storeroom at the residence of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, who has been taken off judicial work.

FULL REPORT ON
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the sovereignty of Parliament and the supremacy of Parliament, and whether at all we are relevant," the Vice President said. At the hour-long meeting, he reiterated these points. In a reply to this, Mr. Kharge said that the Chairperson's concerns were valid, and there was a need to look for an alternative judicial appointments system while still maintaining judicial independence. Specifically on the question of the NJAC, Mr. Kharge said it was for the government to clarify its stand. The Opposition could react only if the government brought in a proposal.

Trinamool Congress

(TMC) MP Sukendu Sekhar Roy said that these issues should be discussed on the floor of Parliament and not in an ante-chamber. Since the NJAC had already been struck down by the Supreme Court, the government should have a clear road map on what would happen if that occurred, he added.

Mr. Nadda said that a distinction should be made on the issue at hand in the discovery of half-burnt currency notes at the residence of a Delhi High Court judge, and the larger issue of finding an alternative to the present Collegium system. Mr. Nadda said he would have "a one-on-one chat over the next few days with all the floor leaders" to decide on the next steps.

(With inputs from Sandeep Phukan)

Govt., Opposition call for collegium system reform

सरकार और विपक्ष ने कॉलेजियम प्रणाली में सुधार की मांग की

Current system lacks transparency, say both sides after a meeting of Rajya Sabha floor leaders chaired by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

वर्तमान प्रणाली पारदर्शिता की कमी रखती है, यह बात उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ की अध्यक्षता में हुई राज्यसभा फ्लोर नेताओं की बैठक में दोनों पक्षों ने कही।

- Leader of the House J.P. Nadda to have a one-on-one meeting with floor leaders to try and arrive at a solution.

सदन के नेता जे.पी. नड्डा फ्लोर नेताओं के साथ वन-ऑन-वन बैठक करेंगे ताकि समाधान निकाला जा सके।

- Leader of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge urges the government to clarify its stance on the NJAC Act, which was struck down by the Supreme Court.

विपक्ष के नेता मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने सरकार से NJAC अधिनियम पर अपनी स्थिति स्पष्ट करने का आग्रह किया, जिसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खारिज कर दिया था।



Vice-President Dhankhar chaired the meeting

उपराष्ट्रपति धनखड़ ने बैठक की अध्यक्षता की

- The meeting was held in the context of the **recovery of half-burnt Indian currency notes** at the official residence of **High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma** on **March 14**.

यह बैठक 14 मार्च को हाई कोर्ट जज जस्टिस यशवंत वर्मा के आधिकारिक निवास पर आधे जले हुए भारतीय करेंसी नोटों की बरामदगी के संदर्भ में आयोजित की गई।

- Both the **Centre and the Opposition** agreed on the need for an **alternative** to the current **collegium system**, citing **lack of transparency**.

केंद्र और विपक्ष दोनों ने वर्तमान कॉलेजियम प्रणाली का विकल्प तलाशने पर सहमति जताई, क्योंकि इसमें पारदर्शिता की कमी है।

- Mallikarjun Kharge** placed the **onus on the government** to clarify its position on **judicial appointments**.

मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने सरकार पर ज़िम्मेदारी डाली कि वह न्यायिक नियुक्तियों पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट करे

BJP president J.P. Nadda to hold individual meetings

भाजपा अध्यक्ष जे.पी. नड्डा व्यक्तिगत बैठकें करेंगे

- At the end of the **inconclusive meeting**, it was decided that **J.P. Nadda** would have **one-on-one discussions** with **floor leaders** to find a **solution**.

अनिर्णायक बैठक के अंत में यह तय किया गया कि जेपी नड्डा फ्लोर नेताओं के साथ वन-ऑन-वन चर्चा करेंगे ताकि समाधान निकाला जा सके।

- Vice-President Dhankhar** said the **recovery of half-burnt notes** was an **undoubtedly serious issue** affecting **governance**.

उपराष्ट्रपति धनखड़ ने कहा कि आधे जले हुए नोटों की बरामदगी एक निस्संदेह गंभीर मुद्दा है जो शासन को प्रभावित करता है।

Reference to NJAC Act

NJAC अधिनियम का संदर्भ

- Dhankhar** referred to the **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act**, saying that if it had **not been struck down by the Supreme Court**, things would have been different.

धनखड़ ने राष्ट्रीय न्यायिक नियुक्ति आयोग (NJAC) अधिनियम का हवाला दिया और कहा कि यदि इसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने खारिज नहीं किया होता, तो स्थितियां अलग होतीं।

- The **NJAC Bill** was ratified by **16 Assemblies** and assented to by the **President** in **December 2014**, but was **struck down by the Supreme Court** in **October 2015**.



NJAC विधेयक को 16 विधानसभाओं द्वारा अनुमोदित किया गया था और इसे दिसंबर 2014 में राष्ट्रपति की मंजूरी मिली थी, लेकिन अक्टूबर 2015 में सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने इसे खारिज कर दिया।

Concerns over Parliament's relevance

संसद की प्रासंगिकता को लेकर चिंता

- Vice-President Dhankhar questioned whether **Parliament remains relevant**, given the judiciary's power over appointments.
उपराष्ट्रपति धनखड़ ने सवाल उठाया कि न्यायपालिका के नियुक्तियों पर अधिकार के चलते संसद की प्रासंगिकता बनी हुई है या नहीं।
- He emphasized that this issue concerns **not just the judicial system, but also the sovereignty and supremacy of Parliament**.
उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि यह मुद्दा सिर्फ न्यायिक प्रणाली ही नहीं, बल्कि संसद की संप्रभुता और सर्वोच्चता से भी जुड़ा हुआ है।

Opposition's response and demand for clarity

विपक्ष की प्रतिक्रिया और स्पष्टता की मांग

- Mallikarjun Kharge agreed that reforms were needed, but said the government must first clarify its position on judicial appointments.
मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे ने सहमति व्यक्त की कि सुधार की आवश्यकता है, लेकिन उन्होंने कहा कि सरकार को पहले न्यायिक नियुक्तियों पर अपना रुख स्पष्ट करना चाहिए।
- Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sukendu Sekhar Roy insisted that the NJAC issue should be debated in Parliament and not in private meetings.
तृणमूल कांग्रेस (TMC) सांसद सुकेन्दु शेखर रॉय ने जोर देकर कहा कि NJAC मुद्दे पर संसद में बहस होनी चाहिए, न कि बंद दरवाजों के पीछे।
- He asked the government to provide a **clear roadmap** on judicial appointments.
उन्होंने सरकार से न्यायिक नियुक्तियों पर एक स्पष्ट रोडमैप प्रस्तुत करने की मांग की।

Distinction between currency note issue and judicial reform

मुद्रा नोट मुद्दे और न्यायिक सुधार में अंतर

- J.P. Nadda clarified that the issue of half-burnt currency notes and the larger debate on judicial appointments should be treated separately.
जेपी नड्डा ने स्पष्ट किया कि आधे जले हुए नोटों का मुद्दा और न्यायिक नियुक्तियों पर व्यापक बहस को अलग-अलग देखा जाना चाहिए।
- He confirmed that he would engage in **one-on-one discussions with floor leaders to determine the next course of action**.



उन्होंने पुष्टि की कि वह फ्लोर नेताओं के साथ व्यक्तिगत चर्चाएँ करेंगे ताकि आगे की कार्ययोजना तय की जा सके।

Centre drops import duty on goods used to make EV, phone batteries; Lok Sabha passes Finance Bill

GS Paper III:

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday announced there would be no import duties on 35 capital goods used to make electric vehicle (EV) batteries and 28 items used to make mobile phone batteries to boost domestic manufacturing.

Replying to the debate on the Finance Bill, which was passed by the Lok Sabha, the Minister said Customs tariff rationalisation in Budget 2025 was aimed at boosting domestic production, enhancing export competitiveness by reducing duties on raw materials and inputs, and making domestic products cost-effective.

"This Finance Bill 2025 relating to the Customs aims to rationalise tariff structure and address duty inversion. These will also support manufacturing

units, domestic value addition, promote exports, facilitate trade and also provide relief to the common people," she said.

The government moved 35 official amendments to the Finance Bill, including one to abolish a 6% digital tax on online advertisements, during its passage in the Lower House.

'Big step forward'

Calling the rationalisation of Customs tariffs a "very big step forward," the Minister said importers would benefit while exporting industries that import parts and components, would become cost competitive.

The announcement came just ahead of a U.S. delegation arriving in India to carry forward talks on President Donald Trump's proposal of imposing reciprocal tariffs.

However, Ms. Sitharaman asserted that the pro-



Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session of Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

cess of Customs tariff rationalisation had been going for the past two years.

The Finance Minister also informed the House that the new Income Tax Bill, seeking to replace the Income Tax Act of 1961, would be taken up for discussion during the next Monsoon session, as it was currently being examined by a Select Committee of Parliament.

Referring to the con-

cerns expressed by Opposition members regarding income tax officers being authorised to examine digital records for assessment purposes in the new income tax Bill, Ms. Sitharaman said it was necessary to make this provision as the 1961 tax law permitted only the examination of physical books of accounts or manual records of income-expenditure.

She also informed the House that the Income Tax

department carried out a 'nudge' campaign in which taxpayers were encouraged to voluntarily disclose their foreign income and assets. SMS and E-mails were sent to around 19,501 select taxpayers, asking them to review their Income Tax returns filed for 2024-25 based on information available to Income Tax of foreign deposits and assets, she said.

Cumulatively, the nudge resulted in the declaration of foreign assets worth ₹29,208 crore and foreign income of ₹1,089 crore in Schedule FA (foreign assets) by 30,161 taxpayers, Ms. Sitharaman added.

Noting that the Finance Bill provides "unprecedented tax relief," the Finance Minister said personal income tax collection for 2025-26 was projected at ₹13.6 lakh crore.

'CLARIFY AMENDMENT'
» PAGE 5

Centre Drops Import Duty on Goods for EV, Phone Batteries; Lok Sabha Passes Finance Bill

केंद्र ने EV, फोन बैटरियों के लिए सामान पर आयात शुल्क हटाया; लोकसभा ने वित्त विधेयक पारित किया

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced no import duties on 35 capital goods for EV batteries and 28 items for mobile phone batteries to boost domestic manufacturing.

केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने EV बैटरियों के लिए 35 पूंजीगत वस्तुओं और



मोबाइल फोन बैटरियों के लिए 28 वस्तुओं पर आयात शुल्क समाप्त करने की घोषणा की, जिससे घरेलू विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा मिलेगा।

- While replying to the debate on the **Finance Bill**, which was **passed in the Lok Sabha**, she said **Customs tariff rationalization in Budget 2025** aims to **boost domestic production and enhance export competitiveness**.

लोकसभा में पारित वित्त विधेयक पर बहस का जवाब देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि 2025 के बजट में सीमा शुल्क संरचना को सरल करने का उद्देश्य घरेलू उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देना और निर्यात प्रतिस्पर्धात्मकता बढ़ाना है।

- **Key objectives of tariff rationalization:**

सीमा शुल्क संरचना को सरल बनाने के मुख्य उद्देश्य:

- **Reducing duties on raw materials and inputs.**
कच्चे माल और इनपुट पर शुल्क कम करना।
- **Making domestic products cost-effective.**
घरेलू उत्पादों को लागत प्रभावी बनाना।
- **Supporting manufacturing units and promoting exports.**
निर्माण इकाइयों को समर्थन देना और निर्यात को बढ़ावा देना।
- **Providing relief to the common people.**
साधारण नागरिकों को राहत प्रदान करना।

Government Moves 35 Amendments to Finance Bill

सरकार ने वित्त विधेयक में 35 संशोधन किए

- The government introduced **35 official amendments**, including **abolition of a 6% digital tax on online advertisements**.

सरकार ने 35 आधिकारिक संशोधन प्रस्तुत किए, जिनमें ऑनलाइन विज्ञापनों पर 6% डिजिटल कर समाप्त करना शामिल है।

- **Minister calls tariff rationalization a big step forward.** She said **importers will benefit and exporting industries that import parts will become cost-competitive**.

मंत्री ने सीमा शुल्क संरचना को बड़ा सुधार बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि आयातकों को लाभ होगा और जो उद्योग पुर्जों का आयात करते हैं, वे लागत प्रतिस्पर्धी बन जाएंगे।

- The announcement came before a **U.S. delegation's arrival** to discuss **President Donald Trump's proposal for reciprocal tariffs**.

यह घोषणा अमेरिकी प्रतिनिधिमंडल के भारत दौर से पहले हुई, जिसमें राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के पारस्परिक शुल्क प्रस्ताव पर चर्चा होगी।

- **Sitharaman clarified that Customs tariff rationalization has been ongoing for two years.**

सीतारमण ने स्पष्ट किया कि सीमा शुल्क संरचना को सरल बनाने की प्रक्रिया पिछले दो वर्षों से जारी है।



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New Income Tax Bill and Foreign Asset Disclosure

नया आयकर विधेयक और विदेशी संपत्ति का खुलासा

- The new Income Tax Bill, replacing the Income Tax Act of 1961, will be discussed in the next Monsoon session.
1961 के आयकर अधिनियम को बदलने वाला नया आयकर विधेयक, अगले मानसून सत्र में चर्चा के लिए प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा।
- **Concerns over digital records:** Opposition members raised concerns about income tax officers examining digital records for assessments under the new Bill.
डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड की जांच को लेकर चिंता: विपक्षी सदस्यों ने नई आयकर विधेयक में आयकर अधिकारियों द्वारा डिजिटल रिकॉर्ड की जांच को लेकर सवाल उठाए।
- **Foreign Asset Disclosure Initiative:**
विदेशी संपत्ति खुलासा पहल:
 - The IT department launched a 'nudge' campaign, encouraging taxpayers to voluntarily disclose foreign income and assets.
आयकर विभाग ने 'नज' अभियान शुरू किया, जिससे करदाताओं को विदेशी आय और संपत्ति स्वेच्छा से घोषित करने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया गया।
 - Around 19,501 taxpayers received SMS and emails asking them to review their ITRs for 2024-25 based on foreign deposits and asset information.
लगभग 19,501 करदाताओं को SMS और ईमेल भेजे गए, जिससे उन्हें 2024-25 के लिए अपने आयकर रिटर्न की समीक्षा करने के लिए कहा गया।
 - 30,161 taxpayers declared ₹29,208 crore worth of foreign assets and ₹1,089 crore foreign income in Schedule FA.
30,161 करदाताओं ने ₹29,208 करोड़ की विदेशी संपत्ति और ₹1,089 करोड़ की विदेशी आय Schedule FA में घोषित की।

Projected Tax Collection for 2025-26

2025-26 के लिए अनुमानित कर संग्रह

- The Finance Bill provides unprecedented tax relief.
वित्त विधेयक अभूतपूर्व कर राहत प्रदान करता है।
- Personal income tax collection for 2025-26 is projected at ₹13.6 lakh crore.
2025-26 के लिए व्यक्तिगत आयकर संग्रह ₹13.6 लाख करोड़ होने का अनुमान है।

Financial Bills

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- **Financial Bills** are a special category of bills that involve financial matters in some form.

Article 110, 117(1), and 117(3) of the Indian Constitution categorize them into:

1. Money Bill
2. Financial Bill Type-1
3. Financial Bill Type-2

Money Bills (Article 110):

- A **Money Bill** is a type of financial bill that exclusively deals with financial matters such as taxation, borrowing of money, and appropriation of funds from the **Consolidated Fund of India**.
- **Key Features:**
 - It can be **introduced only in the Lok Sabha (LS)**.
 - **Requires prior recommendation of the President** before introduction.
 - **Rajya Sabha (RS) has limited powers:**
 - RS cannot reject or amend the bill.
 - RS must return the bill **within 14 days** with or without recommendations.
 - LS can **accept or reject RS recommendations**, and the bill is then sent for **Presidential assent**.

Example: The **Finance Act, 2020**, was passed as a **Money Bill**, including provisions related to **taxation and budgetary allocations**.

Article 110 (2) provide that **not every bill related to money matters qualifies as a "Money Bill."** A bill will **not** be considered a Money Bill **just because** it includes provisions like:

1. **Fines or penalties** – If a bill imposes **monetary punishments** (like traffic fines or corporate penalties), it doesn't automatically become a Money Bill.
2. **Fees for licenses or services** – If a bill includes **fees** for issuing licenses (like a driving license fee) or for services provided (like passport processing fees), it is **not a Money Bill**.
3. **Taxes imposed or changed by local authorities** – If a bill **introduces, removes, modifies, or regulates** a tax at the **local level** (e.g., property tax by a municipal corporation), it is **not a Money Bill**.

Article 110 (3):



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Whether a Bill is a money Bill or not should be decided by the Presiding officer of the LS or the State Legislative Assembly.

PATRIOTIC IAS



In the landmark **Aadhaar case (K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India, 2018)**, the Supreme Court of India addressed the pivotal issue concerning the Speaker's authority under **Article 110(3)** of the Indian Constitution.

Article 110(3):

- Article 110(3) stipulates that if any question arises regarding whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha (House of the People) shall be final.

Judicial Review of the Speaker's Decision:

- In the Aadhaar judgment, the Supreme Court held that while the Speaker's certification of a Money Bill is deemed final, it is not beyond the scope of judicial review.
- The Court asserted its authority to examine whether the Speaker's decision was made arbitrarily or in violation of constitutional principles.

Application in the Aadhaar Case:

- The **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016**, was introduced and passed as a Money Bill.
- Petitioners challenged this classification, arguing that the Act contained provisions beyond the scope of a Money Bill as defined in Article 110(1).
- **Court's Analysis:** The Supreme Court examined whether the Aadhaar Act's primary provisions aligned with the criteria of a Money Bill. The majority concluded that the Act's core objective pertained to the Consolidated Fund of India, thereby justifying its passage as a Money Bill.

Dissenting Opinion:

- **Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's View:** In a notable dissent, Justice Chandrachud opined that the Speaker's certification should not be immune from judicial scrutiny, especially when there are substantial grounds to believe that the certification deviates from constitutional mandates.
- He emphasized the necessity for a larger bench to deliberate on the precise contours of what constitutes a Money Bill.

Implications and Significance:

- **Checks and Balances:** This judgment underscores the balance of power, affirming that while the Speaker holds significant authority, such decisions are subject to the overarching principles of the Constitution and can be reviewed to prevent potential misuse.
- **Legislative Process Integrity:** By allowing judicial review, the Court aims to maintain the integrity of the legislative process, ensuring that the specific route of passing a Money Bill is not misapplied to bypass the Rajya Sabha's scrutiny.



Issues associated with money Bills:

- The Presiding officer is supposed to certify this at the time of transmitting the Bill to the RS.
- Often the central government has been accused of introducing bills as money bills to escape the scrutiny of the RS.
- This generally happens in those cases where the government lacks the requisite majority in RS.
- As per, several constitutional experts, this practice violates the federal character of Indian polity which is a part of the Basic structure of the constitution.
- The constitution has assigned the role of a revisory house to the RS to prevent hasty and politically motivated decisions which get defeated as a result of such intentions of the executive.
- Since the neutrality of the speaker is also a matter of debate, the decision of the speaker to declare the Bills as Money Bills has also come under suspicion.
- Given this scenario, it is necessary to evolve an objective and an independent process to arrive at the correct decision.
- We may follow the British system where a decision on such matters is taken by a committee consisting of Members of the opposition as well.
- Even though the courts have shown restraint in general from interfering in such matters.
- Due to the provisions of **Article 110(3)**, the court in the **Aadhaar Case** held that it does have the power to check whether the speaker acted arbitrarily or not.
- However, despite the judicial review, there is an urgent need to bring reforms to check the misuse of this provision.

Financial Bill Type-1 (Article 117(1))

- These are mentioned under Article 117(1).
- A **Financial Bill Type-1** contains financial matters but **also includes provisions unrelated to taxation or expenditure.**



- They contain money matters as well as some other matters.
- If the **major emphasis of a Bill is on money matters, then it is Financial Bill Type-1.**
- **Key Features:**
 - Introduced only in Lok Sabha (LS).
 - Requires prior recommendation of the President.
 - Unlike a Money Bill, RS has equal powers as LS:
 - RS can reject, amend, or delay the bill indefinitely.

Example: The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Bill was not a Money Bill, but a Financial Bill Type-1, as it involved constitutional amendments as well.

Financial Bill Type-2 (Article 117(3))

- These are mentioned under Article 117(3)
- They contain money matters as well as some other matters.
- If the **major emphasis of a Bill is on non-money matters, then it is Financial Bill Type-2.**
- **Definition:** A Financial Bill Type-2 contains financial matters but its primary focus is on non-financial subjects.
- **Key Features:**
 - Can be introduced in either House of Parliament (LS or RS).
 - Requires prior recommendation of the President.
 - Rajya Sabha has equal powers as Lok Sabha:
 - It can reject, amend, or delay the bill indefinitely.

Example: The **Companies Bill**, which contained provisions related to fees and penalties, was introduced as a Financial Bill Type-2.

Key Differences Between Money Bills & Financial Bills

Feature	Money Bill (Article 110)	Financial Bill Type-1 (Article 117(1))	Financial Bill Type-2 (Article 117(3))
Main Focus	Only financial matters (e.g., taxation, withdrawal from Consolidated Fund of India)	Financial matters + other subjects	Primarily non-financial, but has financial aspects
Introduction	Only in Lok Sabha	Only in Lok Sabha	Either Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha



President's Recommendation	Required	Required	Required
Rajya Sabha's Power	Limited (cannot reject/amend)	Equal to Lok Sabha	Equal to Lok Sabha

SC to hear Katchatheevu case on Sept. 15

GS Paper II: India-Sri Lanka

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed DMK leader T.R. Baalu to replace former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, who passed away in 2018, as petitioner in over a decade-old challenge against agreements entered into between India and Sri Lanka to “cede” Katchatheevu to the island nation.

A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna heard a short preliminary submission by senior advocate



T.R. Baalu

P. Wilson, for petitioner side, that the agreements made on June 26 and 28, 1974, and another one on March 23, 1976, along with related communications surrendering Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka, were un-

constitutional and void.

The court scheduled the case for final hearing on September 15, 2025. Mr. Wilson said his oral submissions would take a day approximately.

“The issue involved in this writ petition is the unconstitutional ceding of the island of Katchatheevu by the Prime Minister of India to the Island nation of Sri Lanka, completely disregarding the constitutional provisions and totally ignoring the federal polity of our country which is an integral part of the basic structure of the Constitu-

tion,” the petition filed by Mr. Karunanidhi had said.

In 2013, the Centre had filed a response to a separate writ petition by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa’s writ petition, informing the court that the question of retrieval of Kachchatheevu from Sri Lanka did not arise as no territory belonging to India was ceded to Sri Lanka.

Katchatheevu is an uninhabited island located about 10 miles north east of Rameswaram on the Indian side and nine miles south of Delft Island on the Sri Lankan side.

SC to hear Katchatheevu case on Sept. 15

सुप्रीम कोर्ट 15 सितंबर को कच्चातीवू मामले की सुनवाई करेगा

The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed DMK leader T.R. Baalu to replace former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, who passed away in 2018, as petitioner in a decade-old challenge against agreements between India and Sri Lanka to “cede” Katchatheevu to the island nation.

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को डीएमके नेता टी.आर. बालू को पूर्व तमिलनाडु मुख्यमंत्री एम. करुणानिधि (जिनका 2018 में निधन हो गया) की जगह याचिकाकर्ता बनने की अनुमति दी, जो भारत और श्रीलंका के बीच कच्चातीवू को सौंपने पर हुई दशक पुरानी चुनौती से जुड़ा मामला है।



- A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna heard a short preliminary submission by senior advocate P. Wilson for the petitioner.
भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश संजीव खन्ना की अध्यक्षता वाली तीन-न्यायाधीशों की पीठ ने वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता पी. विल्सन द्वारा याचिकाकर्ता पक्ष की संक्षिप्त प्रारंभिक प्रस्तुति सुनी।
- The agreements made on June 26 and 28, 1974, and March 23, 1976, along with related communications surrendering Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka, were argued to be unconstitutional and void.
26 और 28 जून 1974, और 23 मार्च 1976 को किए गए समझौतों तथा कच्चातीवू को श्रीलंका को सौंपने से संबंधित पत्राचार को असंवैधानिक और अमान्य बताया गया।
- The court scheduled the case for final hearing on September 15, 2025.
अदालत ने मामले की अंतिम सुनवाई 15 सितंबर 2025 को निर्धारित की।

Arguments of the Petitioners

याचिकाकर्ताओं के तर्क

- Mr. Wilson stated that his oral submissions would take one full day.
श्री विल्सन ने कहा कि उनकी मौखिक दलीलें एक पूरे दिन तक चलेंगी।
- The petition originally filed by M. Karunanidhi argued that the ceding of Katchatheevu by the Prime Minister of India was unconstitutional as it disregarded constitutional provisions and ignored federal polity, which is part of the basic structure of the Constitution.
एम. करुणानिधि द्वारा दायर मूल याचिका में कहा गया कि भारत के प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा कच्चातीवू को सौंपना असंवैधानिक था, क्योंकि इसने संवैधानिक प्रावधानों की अवहेलना की और संघीय व्यवस्था की अनदेखी की, जो कि संविधान की मूल संरचना का हिस्सा है।

Centre's Response in 2013

2013 में केंद्र की प्रतिक्रिया

- In 2013, the Centre filed a response to a separate writ petition by former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, stating that the retrieval of Katchatheevu was not possible as no Indian territory was ceded to Sri Lanka.
2013 में, केंद्र सरकार ने पूर्व तमिलनाडु मुख्यमंत्री जयललिता की एक अलग रिट याचिका पर जवाब दाखिल किया, जिसमें कहा गया कि कच्चातीवू की वापसी संभव नहीं है, क्योंकि भारत की कोई भी भूमि श्रीलंका को सौंपी नहीं गई थी।

Geographical Location of Katchatheevu

कच्चातीवू का भौगोलिक स्थान



- **Katchatheevu** is an uninhabited island located **10 miles northeast of Rameswaram (India)** and **9 miles south of Delft Island (Sri Lanka)**.
कच्चातीवू एक निर्जन द्वीप है, जो भारत में रामेश्वरम के 10 मील उत्तर-पूर्व और श्रीलंका में डेलफ्ट द्वीप के 9 मील दक्षिण में स्थित है।

Katchatheevu and Wadge Bank



1. Katchatheevu Island (कच्चातीवू द्वीप)

Katchatheevu is a **small, uninhabited island** in the **Palk Strait**, situated **between India and Sri Lanka**.

- **Geographical Location:**
 - Lies between **Rameswaram (Tamil Nadu, India)** and **Jaffna (Sri Lanka)**.
 - Located **approximately 33 km** from Rameswaram.
 - Covers an area of **285 acres (1.15 sq. km)**.
- **Historical Background:**
 - Originally controlled by the **Raja of Ramanathapuram (India)** in the **British era**.
 - After India's independence, both **India and Sri Lanka** claimed the island.
 - In **1974**, India **ceded Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka** through a bilateral agreement between **Indira Gandhi (PM of India)** and **Sirimavo Bandaranaike (PM of Sri Lanka)**.
 - In **1976**, another agreement **restricted Indian fishermen from fishing near the island**.



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- **Importance of Katchatheevu:**
 - **Fishing Rights Conflict:** Tamil Nadu fishermen traditionally fished in these waters, but after ceding the island, they faced **arrests and attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy**.
 - **Religious Significance:** The island has the **St. Antony's Church**, where Indian and Sri Lankan devotees gather for the annual festival.
 - **Strategic Importance:** Its location in the **Palk Strait** makes it significant for security and maritime navigation.
- **Recent Developments:**
 - **Tamil Nadu government and fishermen groups have repeatedly demanded the retrieval of Katchatheevu.**
 - In 2024, discussions resurfaced regarding **India reclaiming the island due to increasing arrests of Indian fishermen.**

2. Wadge Bank (वेज बैंक)

Wadge Bank is a **submerged plateau (underwater bank) in the Indian Ocean**, located southeast of **Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu**.

- **Geographical Location:**
 - Lies off the southern coast of India, near **Cape Comorin (Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu)**.
 - Covers an area of **approximately 3,000 sq. km.**
- **Importance of Wadge Bank:**
 - **Fishing Grounds:** One of India's **richest fishing zones**, particularly for **tuna, sharks, and deep-sea fish**.
 - **Oceanographic Significance:** It is an **underwater plateau**, with shallow depths making it an important area for **marine biodiversity**.
 - **Strategic Location:**
 - Lies near major **maritime routes** in the **Indian Ocean**.
 - Important for **India's naval and maritime interests**.

Comparison of Katchatheevu and Wadge Bank

Feature	Katchatheevu Island	Wadge Bank
Type	Small uninhabited island	Submerged plateau (underwater bank)
Location	Palk Strait, between India and Sri Lanka	Indian Ocean, southeast of Kanyakumari



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Area	1.15 sq. km	~3,000 sq. km
Control	Sri Lanka	India
Importance	Fishing rights conflict, religious significance, strategic for maritime security	Rich fishing grounds, oceanographic significance, strategic maritime location
Recent Issues	Tamil Nadu demands its retrieval, frequent arrests of Indian fishermen by Sri Lanka	Climate change and overfishing concerns

PATRIOTIC IAS



SC considers question of timeline for Speakers to decide on defections

**GS Paper II:
Anti-Defection Law**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked if constitutional courts cannot direct Speakers, who act as quasi-judicial tribunals under the anti-defection law, to decide disqualification petitions filed with them under the Tenth Schedule (anti-defection law) of the Constitution within a specified period.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai is hearing petitions filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings pending against 10 MLAs who shifted allegiance to the ruling Congress in the State.

Until now, the apex court had only urged Speakers to decide anti-defection pleas within a "reasonable time". The court had not specified what the



"reasonable" time ought to be in due regard to the Constitutional office of the Speaker.

But Justice Gavai on Tuesday said Constitutional courts were after all the "custodians of the Constitution".

The court considered the question "whether a Constitutional court was so powerless that it cannot direct a Constitutional authority like the Speaker to perform his mandate under the Constitution".

Senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, for the petition-

ers, said the response would necessarily be a 'yes'. The senior lawyer hinted at political partisanship which guided Speakers while noting that in the U.K. the Speaker of the House was the last position held before abandoning active politics.

"We have the best and most vibrant democracy here," Justice A.G. Masih commented.

'Vibrant experience'

Justice Gavai reacted with a smile, saying "the experience in Maharashtra in the last five years has been really vibrant".

Mr. Sundaram said the usual ploy was to keep disqualification petitions pending till the end of the tenure of the House.

"When the law and the Rules are silent about the time [to decide petitions under the anti-defection law], does it give Speakers, acting as quasi-judicial tri-

bunals, an absolute largesse to take whatever time they want or would the Constitutional court have the power to ensure that the petitions are decided within a time which is in tune and in the spirit of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution," Mr. Sundaram framed the question in the case.

He said since Speakers function as a tribunal, the courts definitely would have the power of judicial review over their actions.

"The courts, of course, cannot pass impeding orders which stop the Speaker from exercising his powers, but they can direct the Speaker to exercise his Constitutional authority," Mr. Sundaram argued.

Senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, also appearing on the petitioner side, urged the court to fix four weeks as a reasonable time for Speakers to decide disqualification petitions.

SC considers question of timeline for Speakers to decide on defections

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने स्पीकर द्वारा दलबदल पर निर्णय लेने की समयसीमा पर विचार किया

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked whether constitutional courts can direct Speakers, who act as quasi-judicial tribunals under the anti-defection law, to decide disqualification petitions within a specified period.



सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने मंगलवार को पूछा कि क्या संवैधानिक न्यायालय स्पीकर, जो दलबदल विरोधी कानून के तहत अर्ध-न्यायिक अधिकरण के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, को निर्वाचन अयोग्यता याचिकाओं पर निर्धारित समयसीमा में निर्णय लेने का निर्देश दे सकते हैं।

- A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai is hearing petitions filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi leaders, seeking timely action by the Telangana Assembly Speaker on disqualification proceedings against 10 MLAs who shifted allegiance to the ruling Congress.
न्यायमूर्ति बी.आर. गवाई की अध्यक्षता वाली पीठ भारत राष्ट्र समिति (बीआरएस) नेताओं द्वारा दायर याचिकाओं की सुनवाई कर रही है, जिसमें तेलंगाना विधानसभा अध्यक्ष से 10 विधायकों की सत्तारूढ़ कांग्रेस में जाने पर त्वरित कार्रवाई की मांग की गई है।
- Until now, the apex court had only urged Speakers to decide anti-defection pleas within a 'reasonable time', but had not specified the exact duration.
अब तक, सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने केवल स्पीकर को दलबदल विरोधी याचिकाओं पर 'उचित समय' में निर्णय लेने का आग्रह किया था, लेकिन सटीक अवधि निर्दिष्ट नहीं की थी।
- Justice Gavai emphasized that constitutional courts are the custodians of the Constitution and questioned whether they were powerless to direct a constitutional authority like the Speaker to fulfill their duties.
न्यायमूर्ति गवाई ने जोर देकर कहा कि संवैधानिक न्यायालय संविधान के रक्षक हैं, और उन्होंने सवाल उठाया कि क्या वे स्पीकर जैसी संवैधानिक प्राधिकरण को उनके कर्तव्यों का पालन करने का निर्देश देने में असमर्थ हैं।

Petitioners' Arguments

याचिकाकर्ताओं के तर्क

- Senior advocate C.A. Sundaram, representing the petitioners, agreed that the courts could direct Speakers and hinted at political bias in their decision-making.
वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता सी.ए. सुंदरम, जो याचिकाकर्ताओं का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे, ने स्वीकार किया कि न्यायालय स्पीकर को निर्देश दे सकते हैं, और राजनीतिक पक्षपात की संभावना पर इशारा किया।
- He compared this with the UK system, where the Speaker of the House holds the last position before leaving active politics.
उन्होंने इसे यूके प्रणाली से तुलना करते हुए कहा कि वहां हाउस के स्पीकर राजनीति छोड़ने से पहले अंतिम पद पर होते हैं।
- Justice A.G. Masih remarked that India has the best and most vibrant democracy, to which Justice Gavai responded with a smile, referencing Maharashtra's political scenario over the last five years as being particularly 'vibrant'.
न्यायमूर्ति ए.जी. मसीह ने टिप्पणी की कि भारत में सबसे अच्छी और जीवंत लोकतंत्र प्रणाली है, जिस



पर न्यायमूर्ति गवई ने मुस्कराते हुए महाराष्ट्र के पिछले पांच वर्षों की राजनीति को विशेष रूप से 'जीवंत' बताया।

- Mr. Sundaram pointed out that the usual ploy is to delay disqualification petitions until the end of the House's tenure.

श्री सुंदरम ने बताया कि आम रणनीति यह होती है कि अयोग्यता याचिकाओं को सदन के कार्यकाल के अंत तक लंबित रखा जाए।

The Legal Question on Time Limits

समयसीमा पर कानूनी प्रश्न

- The question before the court was whether **Speakers, acting as quasi-judicial tribunals, have the absolute discretion to delay decisions indefinitely** or whether the **Constitutional courts have the power to ensure timely decisions** under the Tenth Schedule.

अदालत के समक्ष सवाल यह था कि क्या स्पीकर, अर्ध-न्यायिक अधिकरण के रूप में कार्य करते हुए, निर्णय को अनिश्चितकाल तक विलंबित करने का पूरा अधिकार रखते हैं, या संवैधानिक न्यायालयों को यह सुनिश्चित करने की शक्ति है कि निर्णय समय पर हों (दसवीं अनुसूची के अनुसार)।

- Since **Speakers function as a tribunal, judicial review** of their decisions is possible. चूंकि स्पीकर एक न्यायाधिकरण के रूप में कार्य करते हैं, इसलिए उनके निर्णयों की न्यायिक समीक्षा संभव है।

- Mr. Sundaram argued that while courts **cannot stop the Speaker from exercising their powers, they can direct them to exercise their authority within a reasonable time.**

श्री सुंदरम ने तर्क दिया कि हालांकि न्यायालय स्पीकर को उनके अधिकारों के प्रयोग से नहीं रोक सकते, लेकिन वे उन्हें एक निश्चित समयसीमा के भीतर अपने संवैधानिक अधिकारों का प्रयोग करने का निर्देश दे सकते हैं।

- Senior advocate **Dama Seshadri Naidu**, also appearing for the petitioners, urged the court to **set four weeks as a reasonable timeframe** for Speakers to decide **disqualification petitions.**

वरिष्ठ अधिवक्ता डामा शेषाद्री नायडू, जो याचिकाकर्ताओं की ओर से पेश हुए, ने अदालत से स्पीकर को अयोग्यता याचिकाओं पर निर्णय लेने के लिए चार सप्ताह की समयसीमा निर्धारित करने का अनुरोध किया।

Anti-Defection Law

- Created under the **52nd** amendment act to **Article 102(2)** and schedule 10.



- The objective was to **prevent defections in Indian politics**, to **ensure the stability of elected governments** to reduce the role of money power in politics, and to curb the corrupt practice of giving votes on the basis of the lure of money or power.
- Defection is switching one's political allegiance after getting elected to the house.
- **Disqualification under anti-defection law:**
- If a chosen member of the house voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party from which he has been chosen to the house.
- If a person votes contrary to the directions issued by the political party/ abstain from voting and that person's actions are not condoned by the party.
- **Independent candidates:** if they join any political party after getting elected.
- **Nominated candidate:** if they join any political party after **6 months of getting chosen to the house**.
- Expulsion of a member by the political party (no anti-defection would apply).
- **Voluntarily giving up membership** is only resigning from the party or does it also include the behavior of the legislator?
- Supreme court said that voluntarily giving up membership is wider than resignation and includes the conduct and the behavior of the legislator.
- **Exceptions:** originally the law provided exceptions in case of splits (if 1/3 of members in the house of a political party in the house split from a political party and form a new party then the anti-defection law shall not apply).
- **Merger:** if 2/3 of the members of a political party split from the party and merge with another party then the provision of the anti-defection law shall not apply.
- **Decisions** with respect to anti-defection shall be **taken by the presiding officer of the house** but the constitution does not prescribe any time limit on the decision of the presiding officer.
- **Paragraph 7 of Schedule 7** barred the courts to **exercise any jurisdiction on matters of disqualification** under this law. **Kihoto Holohan vs Laichillu and others case**.
- In this case, the **court upheld the constitutional validity** of the anti-defection law on the grounds that it **promotes clean politics and**



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reduces the role of money power in politics. At the same time, paragraph 7 of Schedule 10 which barred the courts from enquiring into such matters was declared unconstitutional by the courts on the grounds of taking away the powers of judicial review which is a part of the basic structure of the constitution.

- **Exception in favor of the presiding officers:**
- If a presiding officer after getting elected resigns from his political party and does not join any political party during his term of office as the presiding officer or rejoins the political party to which he originally belonged after demitting the office the provisions of anti-defection law shall not apply.
- In the **UK** the speaker leaves the membership of the party once elected to the position.

PATRIOTIC IAS



Clarify amendment on pensioners in Finance Bill, says MP

GS Paper II: Finance Bill
NEW DELHI

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday said that there was a “hidden agenda” in the Centre’s attempt to draw a distinction between pensioners through an amendment in the Finance Bill, 2025.

Making an intervention during the discussion on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, he also raised the issue of MGNREGS workers not getting their pay for months.

Mr. Venugopal said he wished to bring these “hidden agendas” to the notice of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. He asked the government to clarify the underlying motive behind the proposed amendment in the Finance Bill which states that the Centre shall have the authority to establish distinctions among pensioners as a general principle.

The far-reaching implications of this decision warrant a clear explanation, he said, especially since it has been introduced as a separate amendment, rather than being included within the Finance Bill itself. “The government must provide a detailed clarification,” he



K.C. Venugopal

said. He also highlighted the plight of people dependent on the MGNREGS, noting that workers have not received their wages under the scheme for the past four months, and many are deprived of pension and other benefits.

He flagged “alarming” cuts in the Union Budget allocations for various sectors including health, education, and social welfare. “The government has slashed a total of ₹1,04,025 crore in overall expenditure, including cuts of ₹1,255 crore in the health sector, ₹11,584 crore in the education sector, and ₹10,019 crore in social welfare. Agricultural, rural and urban development have similarly seen significant fund reductions,” he said.

amendment rather than being included within the **Finance Bill** itself.

उन्होंने तर्क दिया कि यह निर्णय दूरगामी प्रभाव डाल सकता है और इसे स्पष्ट व्याख्या की आवश्यकता है, खासकर क्योंकि इसे वित्त विधेयक में शामिल करने के बजाय एक अलग संशोधन के रूप में पेश किया गया।

Clarify amendment on pensioners in Finance Bill, says MP

वित्त विधेयक में पेंशनभोगियों पर संशोधन स्पष्ट करें, सांसद ने कहा

Congress MP K.C. Venugopal on Tuesday alleged that there was a “hidden agenda” in the Centre’s move to differentiate between pensioners through an amendment in the Finance Bill, 2025.

कांग्रेस सांसद के.सी. वेणुगोपाल ने मंगलवार को आरोप लगाया कि केंद्र सरकार द्वारा वित्त विधेयक 2025 में संशोधन के माध्यम से पेंशनभोगियों के बीच भेदभाव करने का “गुप्त एजेंडा” है।

- During a discussion in the Lok Sabha, he also raised the issue of **MGNREGS workers not receiving wages for months.**

लोकसभा में चर्चा के दौरान, उन्होंने मनरेगा श्रमिकों को महीनों से वेतन नहीं मिलने का मुद्दा भी उठाया।

- Mr. Venugopal urged Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to clarify the underlying motive behind the proposed amendment, which grants the Centre the authority to establish distinctions among pensioners.

श्री वेणुगोपाल ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण से प्रस्तावित संशोधन के पीछे की मंशा स्पष्ट करने का आग्रह किया, जिसमें केंद्र को पेंशनभोगियों के बीच भेदभाव करने का अधिकार दिया गया है।

- He argued that the decision has far-reaching implications and requires a clear explanation, especially since it was introduced as a separate



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Concerns over Budget Cuts and MGNREGS

बजट कटौती और मनरेगा को लेकर चिंता

- Mr. Venugopal also highlighted the **plight of people dependent on MGNREGS**, stating that **workers have not received wages for the past four months**.
श्री वेणुगोपाल ने मनरेगा पर निर्भर लोगों की दुर्दशा को उजागर करते हुए कहा कि श्रमिकों को पिछले चार महीनों से वेतन नहीं मिला।
- He flagged “**alarming**” budget cuts in the **Union Budget allocations for health, education, and social welfare sectors**.
उन्होंने स्वास्थ्य, शिक्षा और सामाजिक कल्याण क्षेत्रों के लिए केंद्रीय बजट आवंटन में “चिंताजनक” कटौती को लेकर चिंता जताई।
- The government has **slashed ₹1,04,025 crore in total expenditure**, including **₹1,255 crore in the health sector**, **₹11,584 crore in the education sector**, and **₹10,019 crore in social welfare**.
सरकार ने कुल ₹1,04,025 करोड़ खर्च में कटौती की है, जिसमें स्वास्थ्य क्षेत्र में ₹1,255 करोड़, शिक्षा क्षेत्र में ₹11,584 करोड़, और सामाजिक कल्याण में ₹10,019 करोड़ की कटौती शामिल है।
- He further added that **agriculture, rural, and urban development sectors** have also faced **significant fund reductions**.
उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि कृषि, ग्रामीण और शहरी विकास क्षेत्रों में भी महत्वपूर्ण धन कटौती की गई है।



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Parliament passes Bill to replace Boilers Act

GS Paper II: Boiler Act

NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Boilers Bill, 2024, which provides for the regulation of boilers, safety of life and property of persons from the danger of explosions of steam-boilers, and uniformity in registration.

The Bill seeks to replace the Boilers Act, 1923. It was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December last year.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who piloted the Bill, said several colonial-era redundant and obsolete provisions have been removed and the Bill seeks to do away with the colonial mind-set. "We have made the Bill simple and readable," he said adding that the legislation would not take away powers of the State governments.

None of the rights of States has been taken away, the Minister assured the Opposition members.

The Opposition members, however, walked out during Mr. Goyal's reply when he was criticising the previous Congress-led government for delaying this law.

Parliament passes Bill to replace Boilers Act

संसद ने बॉयलर्स अधिनियम को बदलने वाला विधेयक पारित किया

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday passed the Boilers Bill, 2024, which provides for the regulation of boilers, safety of life and property from the danger of steam-boiler explosions, and uniformity in registration.

लोकसभा ने मंगलवार को बॉयलर्स विधेयक, 2024 पारित किया, जो बॉयलरों के विनियमन, भाप बॉयलर विस्फोट के खतरे से जीवन और संपत्ति की सुरक्षा, और पंजीकरण में एकरूपता सुनिश्चित करता है।

• The Bill seeks to replace the **Boilers Act, 1923**. It was passed by the Rajya Sabha in December last year.

यह विधेयक बॉयलर्स अधिनियम, 1923 को प्रतिस्थापित करने का प्रयास करता है। इसे पिछले साल दिसंबर में राज्यसभा द्वारा पारित किया गया था।

Government's Stand on the Bill

सरकार का विधेयक पर रुख

• Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, who introduced the Bill, said that several colonial-era redundant and obsolete provisions have been removed to eliminate the colonial mindset.

केंद्रीय वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल, जिन्होंने इस विधेयक को प्रस्तुत किया, ने कहा कि औपनिवेशिक युग की कई अनुपयोगी और अप्रचलित धाराओं को हटा दिया गया है ताकि औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता समाप्त की जा सके।

• "We have made the Bill simple and readable," he said, adding that the legislation would not take away the powers of the State governments.

उन्होंने कहा, "हमने विधेयक को सरल और पठनीय बनाया है", साथ ही यह भी स्पष्ट किया कि यह कानून राज्य सरकारों की शक्तियों को समाप्त नहीं करेगा।

• The Minister assured the Opposition that none of the rights of the States have been taken away.

मंत्री ने विपक्ष को आश्वस्त किया कि राज्यों के किसी भी अधिकार को नहीं छीना गया है।

Opposition's Reaction

विपक्ष की प्रतिक्रिया

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- **Opposition members walked out during Mr. Goyal's reply, when he was criticizing the previous Congress-led government for delaying this law.**
विपक्षी सदस्य श्री गोयल के जवाब के दौरान बाहर चले गए, जब वह पिछली कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार की इस कानून में देरी के लिए आलोचना कर रहे थे।

PATRIOTIC IAS



Row in LS over govt. claim that T.N. gets more **MGNREGS funds** than U.P.

GS Paper II:
Government Scheme

NEW DELHI

Uttar Pradesh gets less funds than Tamil Nadu under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), though the population of the former is triple that of the latter, the Rural Development Ministry said during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The claim – which is not borne out by the fiscal data on the MGNREGS website – led to strong protests from the Opposition, forcing Speaker Om Birla to adjourn the House for 15 minutes. The fracas began when DMK MP Kanimozhi asked when the Centre would release ₹4,034 crore of MGNREGS funds due to Tamil Nadu for the past five months.

In response, **Minister of State for Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani** said that Tamil Nadu had already received ₹7,300 crore this fiscal. **“Tamil Nadu has a population of seven crore, U.P. has a population of 20 crore. U.P. draws close to ₹10,000 crore, Tamil Nadu draws more than ₹10,000 crore. There is no question of not giving money,”** he



U.P gets less funds than T.N., though the population of the former is more, the Rural Development Ministry said in the Lok Sabha.

said.

The “At A Glance” report on the MGNREGS website, however, shows that the total expenditure in the fiscal year for Uttar Pradesh stands at ₹11,860 crore, while for Tamil Nadu, it is ₹10,687 crore. So far this year, the Centre has released ₹9,758 crore to Uttar Pradesh and ₹7,414 crore to Tamil Nadu.

The wider point that **MGNREGS fund allocation is not made on the basis of a State’s population** anyway is clear from the Ministry’s own response to a query earlier in the day.

Demand-driven scheme

In a written reply to a question from Trinamool Congress MP Bapi Halder, the

Ministry said that **MGNREGS “is a demand driven wage employment Scheme”, which means that fund outlay is dependent only on the demand for work** as raised by the State, and not its population size.

Mr. Pemmasani’s remarks provoked strong protests by the DMK members. Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan intervened, in an attempt to calm tempers. “Be it Tamil Nadu or West Bengal, the Modi government has never discriminated against any State. The pending MGNREGA dues, including material costs, will be released soon,” he said.

He added that under the

Congress-led UPA government from 2006-07 to 2013-14, only 111 crore person-days of work was generated under the scheme in West Bengal. Under the NDA government, on the other hand, 239 crore person-days have been generated in the State, and funds have been allocated to the tune of ₹54,515 crore.

The primary question came from Mr. Halder, who asked why the Union government has not yet released the MGNREGA wages due to workers in West Bengal. Mr. Pemmasani said that “multiple things went wrong” in the implementation of the scheme in West Bengal. First, there was “misappropriation” of funds and there were instances when works were split and given to contractors on a nominated basis, he said.

“We sent an audit [team]. They found 44 works where there were irregularities. They made full recovery in 34 cases. Still, 10 other works need to be completed. The financial misappropriation was to the tune of ₹5.37 crore. Out of this, they have recovered ₹2.39 crore. Some of the things still need to be taken care of,” Mr. Pemmasani said.



Row in LS over govt. claim that T.N. gets more MGNREGS funds than U.P

लोकसभा में विवाद: सरकार का दावा कि तमिलनाडु को यूपी से अधिक मनरेगा फंड मिलता है

- Uttar Pradesh receives less funds than Tamil Nadu under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), despite having three times the population, according to the Rural Development Ministry during Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.
उत्तर प्रदेश को तमिलनाडु की तुलना में कम फंड मिलता है महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण रोजगार गारंटी योजना (MGNREGS) के तहत, जबकि उसकी जनसंख्या तीन गुना अधिक है, यह जानकारी ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय ने मंगलवार को लोकसभा में प्रश्नकाल के दौरान दी।
- The claim led to strong protests from the Opposition, forcing Speaker Om Birla to adjourn the House for 15 minutes.
इस दावे के कारण विपक्ष ने जोरदार विरोध किया, जिससे लोकसभा अध्यक्ष ओम बिड़ला को सदन को 15 मिनट के लिए स्थगित करना पड़ा।

Government's Response on MGNREGS Fund Allocation मनरेगा फंड आवंटन पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया

- DMK MP Kanimozhi asked when the Centre would release ₹4,034 crore of pending MGNREGS funds for Tamil Nadu for the past five months.
डीएमके सांसद कनिमोझी ने पूछा कि तमिलनाडु के लिए पिछले पांच महीनों से लंबित ₹4,034 करोड़ मनरेगा फंड केंद्र कब जारी करेगा।
- Minister of State for Rural Development Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani stated that Tamil Nadu had already received ₹7,300 crore this fiscal year.
ग्रामीण विकास राज्य मंत्री चंद्र शेखर पेम्मासानी ने कहा कि तमिलनाडु को इस वित्तीय वर्ष में पहले ही ₹7,300 करोड़ मिल चुके हैं।
- He claimed that Tamil Nadu receives more funds than Uttar Pradesh, stating U.P. gets ₹10,000 crore, while Tamil Nadu receives more than ₹10,000 crore.
उन्होंने दावा किया कि तमिलनाडु को उत्तर प्रदेश से अधिक फंड मिलता है, यह कहते हुए कि यूपी को ₹10,000 करोड़ मिलते हैं, जबकि तमिलनाडु को इससे अधिक मिलता है।
- However, data from the MGNREGS website shows Uttar Pradesh's total expenditure is ₹11,860 crore, while Tamil Nadu's is ₹10,687 crore. The Centre has released ₹9,758 crore to U.P. and ₹7,414 crore to Tamil Nadu so far this year.
हालांकि, मनरेगा वेबसाइट के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, उत्तर प्रदेश का कुल व्यय ₹11,860 करोड़ है, जबकि



तमिलनाडु का ₹10,687 करोड़ है। अब तक केंद्र ने यूपी को ₹9,758 करोड़ और तमिलनाडु को ₹7,414 करोड़ जारी किए हैं।

MGNREGS is a Demand-Driven Scheme

मनरेगा एक मांग-आधारित योजना है

- The MGNREGS fund allocation is not based on a State's population, but rather on demand for work, according to the Ministry's written reply to Trinamool Congress MP Bapi Halder.

मनरेगा फंड आवंटन किसी राज्य की जनसंख्या पर आधारित नहीं है, बल्कि काम की मांग पर आधारित है, यह जानकारी मंत्रालय के लिखित उत्तर में तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद बापी हलदार को दी गई।

- The DMK members protested strongly, prompting Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to intervene and assure that pending dues, including material costs, would be released soon.

डीएमके सांसदों ने जोरदार विरोध किया, जिससे केंद्रीय ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान को हस्तक्षेप करना पड़ा और आश्वासन दिया कि लंबित बकाया राशि, जिसमें सामग्री लागत भी शामिल है, जल्द जारी की जाएगी।

Comparison with UPA Government

संप्रग सरकार की तुलना

- Mr. Chouhan compared the NDA and UPA governments, stating that under Congress-led UPA (2006-07 to 2013-14), only 111 crore person-days of work were generated in West Bengal.

श्री चौहान ने संप्रग और राजग सरकारों की तुलना करते हुए कहा कि कांग्रेस-नीत संप्रग सरकार (2006-07 से 2013-14) के दौरान, पश्चिम बंगाल में केवल 111 करोड़ कार्य-दिवस पैदा किए गए।

- Under the NDA government, 239 crore person-days of work have been generated, with funds allocated up to ₹54,515 crore.

राजग सरकार के तहत, 239 करोड़ कार्य-दिवस उत्पन्न किए गए, और ₹54,515 करोड़ की राशि आवंटित की गई।

Pending MGNREGS Wages in West Bengal

पश्चिम बंगाल में लंबित मनरेगा वेतन

- Mr. Halder asked why the Centre has not released MGNREGS wages for workers in West Bengal.

श्री हलदार ने पूछा कि केंद्र ने पश्चिम बंगाल के श्रमिकों के लिए मनरेगा वेतन क्यों जारी नहीं किया।

- Mr. Pemmasani stated that multiple irregularities and misappropriations were found in West Bengal's implementation of MGNREGS.



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श्री पेम्मासनी ने कहा कि पश्चिम बंगाल में मनरेगा के कार्यान्वयन में कई अनियमितताएँ और गबन पाए गए।

- An audit team found 44 cases of irregularities, of which full recovery was made in 34 cases, but 10 cases remain unresolved.

एक ऑडिट टीम ने 44 मामलों में अनियमितताएँ पाईं, जिनमें से 34 मामलों में पूरी वसूली कर ली गई, लेकिन 10 मामले अभी भी लंबित हैं।

- The total financial misappropriation was ₹5.37 crore, of which ₹2.39 crore has been recovered, but further actions are still needed.

कुल वित्तीय गबन ₹5.37 करोड़ था, जिसमें से ₹2.39 करोड़ की वसूली हो चुकी है, लेकिन अभी भी और कार्रवाई की जरूरत है।

'Centre must discuss river water release with Bengal'

GS Paper II:
India-Bangladesh

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MP Ritabrata Banerjee on Tuesday urged the Centre to consult the West Bengal government before renewing the India-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty of 1996. The treaty for sharing of Ganga water at Farakka is set to expire in 2026.

Mr. Banerjee raised the issue while speaking in the Rajya Sabha on the demand to consult the State government regarding the release of Teesta water to Bangladesh. The MP said the health of the Teesta is suffering because of construction of a series of hydropower projects, deforestation in the upper catchment area, and climate change.

Observing that the Teesta is the second largest river in West Bengal, the MP said Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had conveyed her strong reservation that no discussion regarding the sharing of Teesta water with Bangladesh and the renewal of Indo-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty should be taken up without holding talks with the State government.

Centre must discuss river water release with Bengal केंद्र को बंगाल के साथ नदी जल रिलीज पर चर्चा करनी चाहिए

- Trinamool Congress MP Ritabrata Banerjee on Tuesday urged the Centre to consult the West Bengal government before renewing the India-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty of 1996.

तृणमूल कांग्रेस सांसद ऋतब्रत बनर्जी ने मंगलवार को केंद्र सरकार से भारत-बांग्लादेश फरक्का संधि 1996 के नवीनीकरण से पहले पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार से परामर्श करने का अनुरोध किया।

- The treaty for sharing of Ganga water at Farakka is set to expire in 2026. फरक्का पर गंगा जल साझा करने की संधि 2026 में समाप्त होने वाली है।

Demand to Consult State Government on Teesta Water Release

तीस्ता जल रिलीज पर राज्य सरकार से परामर्श की मांग

- Mr. Banerjee raised the issue in the Rajya Sabha while speaking on the demand to consult the West Bengal government regarding the release of Teesta water to Bangladesh.

श्री बनर्जी ने राज्यसभा में यह मुद्दा उठाते हुए पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार से बांग्लादेश को तीस्ता जल रिलीज करने पर परामर्श की मांग की।

- He stated that the health of the Teesta River is deteriorating due to construction of hydropower projects, deforestation in the upper catchment area, and climate change.

उन्होंने कहा कि तीस्ता नदी की स्थिति बिगड़ रही है क्योंकि हाइड्रोपावर परियोजनाओं के निर्माण, ऊपरी जलग्रहण क्षेत्र में वनों की कटाई और जलवायु परिवर्तन के प्रभाव पड़ रहे हैं।

- Observing that the Teesta is the second largest river in West Bengal, he emphasized that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has strongly opposed any discussion on the sharing of Teesta water with Bangladesh without consulting the

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State government.

उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि तीस्ता पश्चिम बंगाल की दूसरी सबसे बड़ी नदी है, और मुख्यमंत्री ममता बनर्जी ने राज्य सरकार से परामर्श किए बिना बांग्लादेश के साथ तीस्ता जल साझा करने पर कड़ा विरोध जताया है।

- He further insisted that the **renewal of the Indo-Bangladesh Farakka Treaty** should also not proceed **without involving the West Bengal government in discussions.** उन्होंने यह भी जोर दिया कि भारत-बांग्लादेश फरक्का संधि का नवीनीकरण भी पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार को चर्चा में शामिल किए बिना नहीं होना चाहिए।

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No reciprocal tariffs imposed by the U.S. on India, says Centre

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry says the government is engaging with U.S. to negotiate a multi-sector bilateral trade agreement

GS Paper II: India-US

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. will focus on increasing market access, reducing import duty and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration in the proposed bilateral trade agreement, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said that as on this date, reciprocal tariffs had not been applied by the U.S. on India.

He said that the government continued to engage with the U.S. to achieve the enhancement and broadening of bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner.

“Both countries plan to negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement. Both countries would focus on increasing market access, reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, enhancing supply chain integration, and resolving bilateral trade issues,” he said.



Both countries would focus on increasing market access, reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, enhancing supply chain integration

JITIN PRASADA
Minister of State for Commerce and Industry

The U.S. on February 13 issued the Memorandum on Reciprocal Trade and Tariffs, wherein the Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative are to take necessary actions to investigate harm to America from any non-reciprocal trade agreements adopted by trading partners and provide a report with detailed proposed remedies for each trading partner, based on which, U.S. action against relevant country could thereafter be undertaken.

In a separate question on tariffs on agri products, the Minister said that as per the World Trade Organization, 2023, India's simple average tariff rate is 17%, with the figure for agriculture (which includes textiles) being 39%

and for industrial goods 13.5% for 2023.

Post Union Budget 2025-26, the simple average industrial tariff has reduced to 10.66%.

Top 10 commodities of India's export to the U.S. in 2023-24 are drug formulations, biologicals (\$8 billion); pearl, precious, semi-precious stones (\$6.57 billion); petroleum products (\$5.83 billion); telecom instruments (\$5.82 billion); gold and other precious metal jewellery (\$3.3 billion); iron and steel products (\$2.78 billion); ready-made garments of cotton including accessories (\$2.74 billion); electronic components (\$2.69 billion); cotton fabrics, made-ups etc. (\$2.61 billion); and marine products (\$2.5 billion).

No reciprocal tariffs imposed by the U.S. on India, says Centre

अमेरिका ने भारत पर कोई पारस्परिक शुल्क नहीं लगाया, केंद्र ने कहा

• Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada informed Parliament on Tuesday that India and the U.S. are focusing on increasing market access, reducing import duty and non-tariff barriers, and enhancing supply chain integration in the proposed bilateral trade agreement.

वाणिज्य और उद्योग राज्य मंत्री जितिन प्रसाद ने मंगलवार को संसद को सूचित किया कि भारत और अमेरिका प्रस्तावित द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते में बाजार पहुंच बढ़ाने, आयात शुल्क और गैर-शुल्क बाधाओं को कम करने तथा आपूर्ति श्रृंखला एकीकरण को मजबूत करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहे हैं।

• In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Mr. Prasada stated that, as of now, the U.S. has not applied any reciprocal tariffs on India.

लोकसभा में लिखित उत्तर में, श्री



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प्रसाद ने कहा कि वर्तमान में, अमेरिका ने भारत पर कोई पारस्परिक शुल्क लागू नहीं किया है।

- The government is engaging with the U.S. to enhance and broaden bilateral trade relations in a mutually beneficial and fair manner.
- सरकार अमेरिका के साथ व्यापारिक संबंधों को मजबूत और व्यापक बनाने के लिए बातचीत कर रही है, ताकि यह आपसी लाभकारी और न्यायसंगत तरीके से हो।

Proposed Bilateral Trade Agreement

प्रस्तावित द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौता

- Both countries are negotiating a mutually beneficial, multi-sector bilateral trade agreement, focusing on:

दोनों देश एक आपसी लाभकारी, बहु-क्षेत्रीय द्विपक्षीय व्यापार समझौते पर बातचीत कर रहे हैं, जिसमें ध्यान दिया जाएगा:

- Increasing market access
बाजार पहुंच बढ़ाने पर
- Reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers
शुल्क और गैर-शुल्क बाधाओं को कम करने पर
- Enhancing supply chain integration
आपूर्ति श्रृंखला एकीकरण को मजबूत करने पर
- Resolving bilateral trade issues
द्विपक्षीय व्यापार मुद्दों का समाधान करने पर

U.S. Memorandum on Reciprocal Trade and Tariffs

अमेरिका का पारस्परिक व्यापार और शुल्क पर ज्ञापन

- On February 13, 2024, the U.S. issued a memorandum on reciprocal trade and tariffs, directing the Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative to:

13 फरवरी 2024 को, अमेरिका ने पारस्परिक व्यापार और शुल्क पर एक ज्ञापन जारी किया, जिसमें वाणिज्य सचिव और अमेरिकी व्यापार प्रतिनिधि को निर्देश दिया गया:

- Investigate harm caused by non-reciprocal trade agreements.
गैर-पारस्परिक व्यापार समझौतों से होने वाले नुकसान की जांच करने के लिए।
- Prepare a report with proposed remedies for each trading partner.
प्रत्येक व्यापार भागीदार के लिए संभावित समाधान के साथ एक रिपोर्ट तैयार करने के लिए।
- Decide on possible actions against relevant countries.
संबंधित देशों के खिलाफ संभावित कार्रवाई तय करने के लिए।

Tariff Rates on Agricultural and Industrial Products

कृषि और औद्योगिक उत्पादों पर शुल्क दरें

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- According to the **World Trade Organization (2023)**, India's **simple average tariff rate is 17%**, with:
विश्व व्यापार संगठन (2023) के अनुसार, भारत की सरल औसत शुल्क दर 17% है, जिसमें:
 - **Agriculture sector (including textiles): 39%**
कृषि क्षेत्र (जिसमें वस्त्र शामिल हैं): 39%
 - **Industrial goods: 13.5%**
औद्योगिक उत्पाद: 13.5%
- After the **Union Budget 2025-26**, the **simple average industrial tariff has reduced to 10.66%**.
केंद्रीय बजट 2025-26 के बाद, सरल औसत औद्योगिक शुल्क घटकर 10.66% हो गया है।

Top 10 Indian Exports to the U.S. (2023-24)

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका को भारत के शीर्ष 10 निर्यात (2023-24)

- **Drug formulations, biologicals - \$8 billion**
औषधीय निर्माण, जैविक उत्पाद - \$8 बिलियन
- **Pearl, precious, semi-precious stones - \$6.57 billion**
मोती, कीमती, अर्ध-कीमती पत्थर - \$6.57 बिलियन
- **Petroleum products - \$5.83 billion**
पेट्रोलियम उत्पाद - \$5.83 बिलियन
- **Telecom instruments - \$5.82 billion**
दूरसंचार उपकरण - \$5.82 बिलियन
- **Gold and other precious metal jewellery - \$3.3 billion**
सोना और अन्य कीमती धातु आभूषण - \$3.3 बिलियन
- **Iron and steel products - \$2.78 billion**
लोहा और इस्पात उत्पाद - \$2.78 बिलियन
- **Ready-made garments of cotton (including accessories) - \$2.74 billion**
कपास के रेडीमेड वस्त्र (सहायक उपकरण सहित) - \$2.74 बिलियन
- **Electronic components - \$2.69 billion**
इलेक्ट्रॉनिक घटक - \$2.69 बिलियन
- **Cotton fabrics, made-ups, etc. - \$2.61 billion**
कपास के कपड़े, मेकअप आदि - \$2.61 बिलियन
- **Marine products - \$2.5 billion**
समुद्री उत्पाद - \$2.5 बिलियन



India is the safest place for minorities, says Union Minister

Ishita Mishra

NEW DELHI

GS Paper II: NCM

“Minorities are the safest in India,” Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian said on Tuesday as he compared the status of minorities in neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and China.

Speaking to the members of the State Minority Commission in Delhi during a meeting organised by the National Minority Commission (NCM), Mr. Kurian emphasised the Centre’s commitment to the empowerment of minority communities.

Stressing that minorities in India enjoy greater safety and security than in some neighbouring nations, he said, “We can say that India is the safest place for minorities in the world... See you look at our neighbour Pakistan. What is the condition of minorities in Pakistan where Christians are minorities? What is the plight of Christians there? What is the condition of Hindus there?”

The Minister said the world knew the plight of Christians and Muslims in China, where they are minorities.

“You take Myanmar where Muslims are a minority. I don’t have to explain about Rohingya. You



George Kurian

take Bangladesh, then again no need to explain what is happening to minorities there. In Sri Lanka, I don’t have to explain what happened on the Easter night,” he said.

Sri Lanka was rocked by a series of deadly blasts on April 21, 2019.

The attacks were allegedly in a series of coordinated Islamic terrorist suicide bombings. More than 300 people lost their lives in the attack and several were injured.

The Minister also alleged that European countries faced communal violence every month, though they were the “preachers of all these rights”.

“No need to say anything about America. This is why I say India is the safest place for minorities. Here we can raise our voice. We can protest. We can ask the government to give and its compelled to give,” he added.

India is the safest place for minorities, says Union Minister

भारत अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित स्थान है, केंद्रीय मंत्री ने कहा

Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian stated on Tuesday that India is the safest country for minorities, comparing their status with those in Pakistan, Bangladesh, and China.

अल्पसंख्यक मामलों के राज्य मंत्री जॉर्ज कुरियन ने मंगलवार को कहा कि भारत अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए दुनिया का सबसे सुरक्षित देश है, और इसकी तुलना पाकिस्तान, बांग्लादेश और चीन में अल्पसंख्यकों की स्थिति से की।

• Speaking at a meeting of the National Minority Commission (NCM) in Delhi, he emphasized the Centre’s commitment to the empowerment of minority communities.

दिल्ली में राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग (NCM) की बैठक में बोलते हुए, उन्होंने अल्पसंख्यक समुदायों के सशक्तिकरण के लिए केंद्र सरकार की प्रतिबद्धता को दोहराया।

Comparison with Neighboring Countries पड़ोसी देशों से तुलना

• Mr. Kurian stated that minorities in India enjoy greater safety and security than those in neighboring countries.

श्री कुरियन ने कहा कि भारत में अल्पसंख्यक पड़ोसी देशों की तुलना में अधिक सुरक्षा और संरक्षा का आनंद लेते हैं।



- He questioned the **condition of minorities in Pakistan**, particularly **Christians and Hindus**, and highlighted their **plight in that country**.
उन्होंने पाकिस्तान में अल्पसंख्यकों की स्थिति पर सवाल उठाया, विशेष रूप से ईसाइयों और हिंदुओं की दुर्दशा को उजागर किया।
- He further pointed out the **challenges faced by Christians and Muslims in China and Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar**.
उन्होंने चीन में ईसाइयों और मुसलमानों और म्यांमार में रोहिंग्या मुसलमानों को होने वाली चुनौतियों का भी उल्लेख किया।
- Regarding **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**, he claimed that **minorities there also face hardships**, referencing the **2019 Easter bombings in Sri Lanka**.
बांग्लादेश और श्रीलंका के बारे में, उन्होंने कहा कि वहां भी अल्पसंख्यक कठिनाइयों का सामना कर रहे हैं, और 2019 के ईस्टर बम विस्फोटों का हवाला दिया।

Situation in Western Countries

पश्चिमी देशों की स्थिति

- **Mr. Kurian** alleged that **European countries face communal violence every month**, despite being **preachers of human rights**.
श्री कुरियन ने आरोप लगाया कि यूरोपीय देशों में हर महीने सांप्रदायिक हिंसा होती है, जबकि वे मानवाधिकारों के प्रचारक माने जाते हैं।
- He also said that **America is not immune to such issues**, reinforcing his statement that **India remains the safest place for minorities**.
उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि अमेरिका भी इन समस्याओं से अछूता नहीं है, और इसीलिए भारत अल्पसंख्यकों के लिए सबसे सुरक्षित स्थान बना हुआ है।
- “Here, we can raise our voice, protest, and ask the government to take action,” he added.
“यहां हम अपनी आवाज उठा सकते हैं, विरोध कर सकते हैं, और सरकार से कार्रवाई करने की मांग कर सकते हैं,” उन्होंने कहा।



National Commission for Minorities (NCM)

The **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** is a statutory body established by the Government of India to safeguard and promote the rights and interests of minority communities in the country.

It plays a crucial role in ensuring that minorities can participate equally in the socio-economic and political spheres of the nation.

Historical Background

- **Establishment:** Initially constituted as the **Minorities Commission** in **1978** through a resolution by the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, it functioned as a non-statutory body.
- **Statutory Status:** The commission gained statutory status with the enactment of the **National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992**, leading to its reconstitution as the **National Commission for Minorities** on **17th May 1993**.

Mandate and Functions

The NCM is entrusted with several key responsibilities:

- **Evaluation of Development:** Assessing the progress of minority communities under both Central and State governments.
- **Monitoring Safeguards:** Overseeing the implementation of constitutional and legal safeguards for minorities.
- **Recommendation of Measures:** Proposing effective measures to protect and promote minority interests.
- **Addressing Complaints:** Investigating specific complaints regarding the deprivation of minority rights.
- **Research and Analysis:** Conducting studies on issues related to the socio-economic and educational development of minorities.
- **Reporting:** Submitting periodic or special reports to the government on minority affairs.

Recognized Minority Communities

The Government of India has officially recognized six religious communities as minorities:

1. **Muslims:** Constituting approximately **14.2%** of the population, with around **17.22 crore** individuals.
2. **Christians:** Making up about **2.3%**, totaling approximately **2.78 crore** people.
3. **Sikhs:** Representing **1.7%** of the population, with around **2.08 crore** adherents.
4. **Buddhists:** Accounting for **0.7%**, numbering about **84 lakh** individuals.
5. **Jains:** Comprising **0.4%** of the population, with approximately **45 lakh** members.
6. **Zoroastrians (Parsis):** A small community of around **57,000** individuals.

Note: The Jain community was officially notified as a minority on 27th June 2014.



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Composition of the Commission

The NCM consists of:

- **Chairperson:** Leads the commission.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Assists the Chairperson.
- **Five Members:** Experts from various fields related to minority affairs.

Tenure: Each member serves a term of **three years** from the date of assumption of office.

Recent Developments

- **Vacancies:** As of **November 2020**, there were notable vacancies in the commission, including the positions of Chairperson and several members, impacting its functioning.
- **Leadership:** The most recent Chairperson was **Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi**, whose tenure concluded on **25th May 2020**.

Significance

The NCM plays a pivotal role in:

- **Upholding Constitutional Rights:** Ensuring that minority communities enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.
- **Promoting Inclusive Development:** Facilitating the socio-economic and educational advancement of minorities.
- **Advising Policy Formulation:** Providing insights and recommendations to shape policies that affect minority communities.



10 months after NEET paper leak, NTA yet to fill five new positions

GS Paper II: NTA

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

Ten months after the NEET-UG paper leak controversy that raised multiple questions on the working of the National Testing Agency (NTA), the top exam-conducting body has been unable to fill five senior key positions that were created for its revamp.

In reply to a Rajya Sabha question, Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said that to further strengthen the NTA, 16 posts were created to be filled on deputation under the Central Staffing Scheme.

The NTA floated eight positions at the Director level and another eight at the Joint Director level. "Out of the newly created posts, three Joint Directors have



Students protesting over the NEET-UG question paper leak on June 20, 2024.

already joined NTA," the reply said.

Delay in process

Education officials told *The Hindu* that not all Joint Director posts were filled, and the recruitment had been delayed.

While the NTA has con-

ducted 250 exams for 5.5 crore candidates since 2018, its role came under scrutiny when allegations involving a massive paper leak scam surfaced after the medical entrance test last May.

As on November last year, the CBI filed five chargesheets against 45 accused who tried to benefit from the question paper theft, and MBBS students who had solved the stolen paper or who had appeared in the test as impersonators.

Post this, the Education Ministry constituted a high-level committee of experts in June last year, headed by K. Radhakrishnan, former Chairman of ISRO and Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIT-Kanpur, which submitted its report in October 2024.

The panel recommend-

ed reforms for the national-level testing and strengthening of the NTA.

The agency is headed by a Director-General appointed by the Union government. After last year's controversy, IAS officer Subodh Kumar Singh was shunted out of the NTA and was replaced by another official, Pradeep Singh Kharola.

On contract

At present, the number of employees working on deputation in the NTA is 25. One employee has been absorbed from his parent department, the Minister's reply said. Additionally, 43 personnel are engaged on a contract basis. To make the NTA more robust, 16 new posts were created, of which only three Joint Director posts of the eight have been filled.

10 months after NEET paper leak, NTA yet to fill five new positions

नीट पेपर लीक के 10 महीने बाद, एनटीए अब तक पांच नए पद नहीं भर पाया

Ten months after the NEET-UG paper leak controversy, the **National Testing Agency (NTA)** has been unable to fill five key senior positions created for its revamp.



नीट-यूजी पेपर लीक विवाद के 10 महीने बाद, राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी (एनटीए) अब तक इसके पुनर्गठन के लिए बनाए गए पांच महत्वपूर्ण वरिष्ठ पदों को भरने में असमर्थ रहा है।

- In response to a Rajya Sabha question, Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar stated that 16 new posts were created to be filled on deputation under the Central Staffing Scheme.
राज्यसभा में एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में, शिक्षा राज्य मंत्री सुकांत मजूमदार ने कहा कि केंद्र सरकार की स्टाफिंग योजना के तहत 16 नए पदों का सृजन किया गया था।
- The NTA had floated eight Director-level and eight Joint Director-level positions. However, only three Joint Directors have joined so far.
एनटीए ने आठ निदेशक स्तर और आठ संयुक्त निदेशक स्तर के पद निकाले थे, लेकिन अब तक केवल तीन संयुक्त निदेशक ही शामिल हुए हैं।

Delay in Recruitment Process

भर्ती प्रक्रिया में देरी

- Education officials confirmed that not all Joint Director posts have been filled, leading to delays in recruitment.
शिक्षा अधिकारियों ने पुष्टि की कि सभी संयुक्त निदेशक पद भरे नहीं गए हैं, जिससे भर्ती में देरी हो रही है।
- Since 2018, the NTA has conducted 250 exams for 5.5 crore candidates, but its credibility came under scrutiny after a major NEET paper leak scam surfaced in May 2023.
2018 से, एनटीए ने 5.5 करोड़ उम्मीदवारों के लिए 250 परीक्षाएँ आयोजित की हैं, लेकिन मई 2023 में नीट पेपर लीक घोटाले के सामने आने के बाद इसकी विश्वसनीयता पर सवाल उठे।
- As of November 2023, the CBI filed five chargesheets against 45 accused who benefitted from the leaked question paper, including MBBS students who solved stolen papers or impersonated candidates.
नवंबर 2023 तक, सीबीआई ने 45 आरोपियों के खिलाफ पांच चार्जशीट दाखिल की, जिन्होंने लीक हुए प्रश्न पत्र का लाभ उठाया, जिनमें चोरी किए गए पेपर हल करने वाले एमबीबीएस छात्र और फर्जी उम्मीदवार शामिल थे।

High-Level Committee and Leadership Changes

उच्च स्तरीय समिति और नेतृत्व में बदलाव

- In June 2023, the Education Ministry formed a high-level expert committee, chaired by K. Radhakrishnan (former ISRO Chairman and IIT-Kanpur Board of Governors Chairman), which submitted its report in October 2024.
जून 2023 में, शिक्षा मंत्रालय ने एक उच्च स्तरीय विशेषज्ञ समिति का गठन किया, जिसकी अध्यक्षता



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के. राधाकृष्णन (पूर्व इसरो अध्यक्ष और आईआईटी-कानपुर बोर्ड ऑफ गवर्नर्स के अध्यक्ष) ने की, और इसने अक्टूबर 2024 में अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंपी।

- The panel recommended reforms for national-level testing and strengthening of the NTA.

समिति ने राष्ट्रीय स्तर की परीक्षाओं में सुधार और एनटीए को मजबूत करने की सिफारिश की।

- Following the controversy, IAS officer Subodh Kumar Singh was removed as NTA Director-General and replaced by Pradeep Singh Kharola.

विवाद के बाद, आईएएस अधिकारी सुभोध कुमार सिंह को एनटीए के महानिदेशक पद से हटा दिया गया और उनकी जगह प्रदीप सिंह खरोला को नियुक्त किया गया

Current Status of NTA Staffing

एनटीए स्टाफिंग की वर्तमान स्थिति

- At present, 25 employees are working on deputation in NTA, and one employee has been absorbed from his parent department.

वर्तमान में, एनटीए में 25 कर्मचारी प्रतिनियुक्ति पर कार्यरत हैं, और एक कर्मचारी को उसके मूल विभाग से स्थानांतरित किया गया है।

- Additionally, 43 personnel are engaged on a contract basis.

इसके अलावा, 43 कर्मचारी अनुबंध के आधार पर कार्यरत हैं।

- Out of 16 newly created posts, only three Joint Director positions have been filled, leaving five key senior positions still vacant.

16 नए सृजित पदों में से, केवल तीन संयुक्त निदेशक पद भरे गए हैं, जबकि पांच महत्वपूर्ण वरिष्ठ पद अभी भी रिक्त हैं।



The 'Great Abandonment' of Afghanistan

GS Paper II: Afghanistan

The showdown in the Oval office between United States President Donald Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last month and the subsequent developments were watched everywhere, but they have echoed the loudest for Afghans around the world, many of whom live in exile. The comparisons to how the U.S. – under Mr. Trump and then former President Joe Biden – lost interest, cut funding, pulled out stakes and left it to be ruled by the Taliban regime, were evident.

A reflection of the present

What may surprise many is how other U.S. actions resemble the present: in September 2017, for example, Mr. Trump shook hands with then-President Ashraf Ghani for a deal that would give U.S. companies access to rare earth mineral deposits in Afghanistan. In July 2018, U.S. officials began talks with the Taliban directly, without bringing the elected Ghani government on board. In February 2020, they announced the Doha Accords – heavily skewed in the Taliban's favour – virtually accepting the narrative that the Taliban were the representatives of Afghanistan, extracting no binding commitments on a political process, shutting terror camps, securing rights of women or minorities. This flawed ceasefire accord was presented as a *fait accompli* to the Afghan government, which turned tail and fled, easing the path for the Taliban.

The years that followed have shown what the cost of that compromise for a ceasefire was. Even though the regime has not so far been recognised by any country, Taliban 2.0 (2021-present) has a firmer grip on the country, is more brutal to women, and is less tolerant of any opposition. That they are able to ban girls from school, college, all employment, and even from sight, is all the more horrifying as it follows two decades when such official restrictions did not exist, women worked in many spheres, and Afghanistan even had a woman candidate for President. While the past (2001-2021) was by no means utopian, the present is clearly hell-like. The situation led a speaker at a recent conference of exiles in Spain to say that rather than the "Great Game", Afghanistan today was witnessing a "Great Abandonment".

The U.S. and Europe have washed their hands of the problem inside Afghanistan, while Russia, China, Pakistan, and the Central and West Asian countries have embraced the regime within it, allowing the Taliban flag to fly at embassies of the erstwhile Republic.

India has been teetering on the edge, not allowing a Taliban-appointed Ambassador into the Embassy in New Delhi, but not supporting the Republic's diplomats either. After closing its embassy in Kabul in 2021, India reopened a "technical mission" in 2022, engaging Taliban



Suhasini Haidar

ministers at the level of a Ministry of External Affairs official. That may be set to change, as a wide range of sources say that India is now negotiating to expand its presence in Kabul, while allowing a Taliban-appointed Ambassador to serve in Delhi. In addition to the humanitarian aid it sends, India also wants to revive its development projects in Afghanistan. Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's meeting with Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Dubai in January 2025, that discussed these possibilities, was the first such meeting announced publicly, as, thus far, it was the Joint Secretary in charge of the region who dealt with Taliban 'Ministers'.

Engaging with Taliban 2.0

What then is prompting the Narendra Modi government, especially given the Bharatiya Janata Party's political base, to make overtures to the band of radical Islamists that controls Kabul? Several reasons are being proffered by officials, who mostly pitch this as a matter of pragmatism and realpolitik.

The first is that the "Taliban is here to stay", and it makes sense for India to come to terms with it. While some engagement with the Afghan regime is inevitable in this second tenure, there is no reason to believe that the Taliban's grip is eternal. Already, reports indicate the tussle between Haqqani factions and Kandahari clerics over the issue of girls education has grown serious. According to the reports, Sher Abbas Stanekzai and Sirajuddin Haqqani, who are both India's main interlocutors within the Taliban, have had to flee the country for suggesting that the restrictions on females were unfair. The Taliban's mismanagement of the economy, and the drying up of foreign assistance, especially now with the Trump administration's freeze on the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and even the Chabahar port, will squeeze the situation further. A surge in refugees being returned by Pakistan and tensions with Pakistan along the Durand Line will exacerbate these fault-lines.

The second explanation, that India can help common Afghans only by working closely with the Taliban, is easily refuted. Between 1996 and 2001, India had kept up aid consignments to Afghanistan through other aid agencies. In any case, it is hardly likely that the Taliban would refuse to accept aid from India, given its importance.

The third explanation is that India would lose strategic space in Afghanistan by not reopening its embassy there when all other countries in its neighbourhood have. However, expecting strategic space from the Taliban's Islamic Emirate, given its ideology, is a risky proposition. The relationship India forged with the Afghan Republic: a strategic partnership (Afghanistan's

first), intelligence sharing with the National Directorate of Security (NDS), and working with the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) to protect Indian interests, cannot be built with the Taliban. If Taliban 2.0 has not changed from Taliban 1.0 in other respects, it would be foolhardy to assume a change of heart on India too, given how the group targeted Indian missions, workers, diplomats and security force personnel for the 25 years prior to the takeover of Kabul.

New Delhi should worry instead about losing mind-space amongst Afghans, who have been deeply disappointed by the Modi government's decision not to open out visas for Afghans fleeing the Taliban in 2021, including those who risked their lives to protect Indians. According to officials privy to a high-level meeting on the issue, India's security establishment worried that those who come as "refugees" would later prove to be "terrorists".

The lived experience, however, is that those who took shelter in India in the past and came as students, patients and traders, built reservoirs of goodwill for India back home and proved invaluable in positions of power during the tenures of President Hamid Karzai and Ghani. The legacy of India's support to leaders of the Northern Alliance such as Ahmad Shah Massoud (1990s) has lived on in the hearts of many who are hurt by the harsh rejection they face today, even as India moves closer into a clinch with the Taliban.

Reversing policy

For all these reasons, the government must study the developing situation in Afghanistan more closely and reconsider any plans to allow the creeping Talibanisation of the Embassy in Delhi. Ties with the regime in Kabul may be a necessity, but there is an urgent need to rebuild ties with those opposed to the Taliban as well. India must speak up about the situation of women and provide them a platform when possible. It is surprising that with all its clout, The Board of Control for Cricket in India did not push the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) to recognise the Afghan women's cricket team that has regrouped in Australia, or even to host the women's team in India.

India should not shy away from allowing leaders of the exiled community to hold conferences and forums in India to raise their voice for political representation inside Afghanistan either. If there is one thing India's past problems in its neighbourhood have revealed, it is that New Delhi must engage with those in power, without abandoning contact with others across the political spectrum, if it wants to remain relevant in all eventualities and outcomes.

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The U.S. and Europe have washed their hands of the problem inside Afghanistan; India should worry about losing mind-space among Afghans

The 'Great Abandonment' of Afghanistan

अफगानिस्तान का 'महान परित्याग'

The Oval Office showdown between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy last month drew global attention, particularly among Afghan exiles.

ओवल ऑफिस में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप और यूक्रेन के राष्ट्रपति वलोडिमिर



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ज़ेलेंस्की के बीच हुई बहस ने वैश्विक ध्यान आकर्षित किया, विशेष रूप से अफगान प्रवासियों के बीच।

- Comparisons were drawn with how the **U.S. lost interest in Afghanistan**, cut funding, withdrew forces, and **left the country under Taliban rule**.
इसकी तुलना अफगानिस्तान में अमेरिकी रुख से की गई, जहां अमेरिका ने रुचि खो दी, वित्त पोषण बंद किया, सेनाएँ हटाईं, और देश को तालिबान शासन के अधीन छोड़ दिया।

Reflections of the Present

वर्तमान की झलकियां

- In **September 2017**, Trump shook hands with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to allow U.S. companies access to Afghanistan's rare earth minerals.
सितंबर 2017 में, ट्रंप ने अफगान राष्ट्रपति अशरफ गनी से समझौता किया ताकि अमेरिकी कंपनियों को अफगानिस्तान के दुर्लभ खनिज संसाधनों तक पहुंच मिल सके।
- By **July 2018**, the U.S. began direct talks with the Taliban, excluding the Ghani government.
जुलाई 2018 तक, अमेरिका ने तालिबान के साथ सीधे बातचीत शुरू कर दी, और गनी सरकार को बाहर रखा।
- The **February 2020 Doha Accords** favored the Taliban, recognizing them as **Afghanistan's representatives** without demanding guarantees on **political stability, women's rights, or counter-terrorism efforts**.
फरवरी 2020 की दोहा संधि ने तालिबान को अफगानिस्तान का प्रतिनिधि मान लिया, बिना किसी राजनीतिक स्थिरता, महिलाओं के अधिकारों, या आतंकवाद विरोधी उपायों की गारंटी लिए।
- The **Afghan government collapsed**, making way for the Taliban's return to power.
अफगान सरकार गिर गई, जिससे तालिबान के सत्ता में लौटने का रास्ता साफ हुआ।

Consequences of the U.S. Withdrawal

अमेरिकी वापसी के परिणाम

- Since **2021**, the Taliban 2.0 regime has become more **brutal towards women** and **uncompromising against opposition**.
2021 से, तालिबान 2.0 शासन महिलाओं के प्रति अधिक निर्दयी और विपक्ष के प्रति असहिष्णु बन गया है।
- **Women are banned from education, employment, and even public visibility, reversing two decades of progress**.
महिलाओं को शिक्षा, रोजगार और सार्वजनिक जीवन से बाहर कर दिया गया, जिससे दो दशकों की प्रगति समाप्त हो गई।

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- A speaker at a recent **Afghan exiles' conference in Spain** termed the situation not as the "**Great Game**" but as "**Great Abandonment**".
स्पेन में अफगान प्रवासियों के एक सम्मेलन में, एक वक्ता ने स्थिति को "महान खेल" के बजाय "महान परित्याग" कहा

Global Response to Taliban Rule

तालिबान शासन पर वैश्विक प्रतिक्रिया

- The U.S. and Europe have **withdrawn involvement**, while Russia, China, Pakistan, and Central/West Asian countries have **embraced the Taliban regime**.
अमेरिका और यूरोप ने अफगानिस्तान से संबंध समाप्त कर लिए, जबकि रूस, चीन, पाकिस्तान और मध्य/पश्चिम एशियाई देशों ने तालिबान शासन को स्वीकार कर लिया।
- The Taliban flag now flies at embassies once representing the Afghan Republic.
तालिबान का झंडा अब उन दूतावासों पर लहरा रहा है, जो पहले अफगान गणराज्य का प्रतिनिधित्व करते थे।
- India remains **cautious**—it has not allowed a **Taliban-appointed Ambassador in New Delhi**, but also does not support the Republic's diplomats.
भारत सतर्क बना हुआ है—इसने नई दिल्ली में तालिबान-नियुक्त राजदूत को अनुमति नहीं दी, लेकिन अफगान गणराज्य के राजनयिकों का समर्थन भी नहीं किया।

India's Changing Stance on Afghanistan

अफगानिस्तान पर भारत का बदलता रुख

- After **closing its Kabul embassy in 2021**, India reopened a "**technical mission**" in 2022, engaging with Taliban leaders at an MEA official level.
2021 में अपना काबुल दूतावास बंद करने के बाद, भारत ने 2022 में "तकनीकी मिशन" फिर से शुरू किया, जहां विदेश मंत्रालय के अधिकारियों ने तालिबान नेताओं से संपर्क किया।
- Reports suggest that India is **negotiating to expand its diplomatic presence in Kabul** and may allow a **Taliban-appointed Ambassador in Delhi**.
रिपोर्ट्स के अनुसार, भारत काबुल में अपने राजनयिक उपस्थिति का विस्तार करने के लिए बातचीत कर रहा है और नई दिल्ली में तालिबान-नियुक्त राजदूत को अनुमति दे सकता है।
- India aims to **revive its development projects in Afghanistan**, alongside its ongoing humanitarian aid efforts.
भारत अफगानिस्तान में अपनी विकास परियोजनाओं को पुनर्जीवित करने के साथ-साथ मानवीय सहायता प्रयासों को जारी रखने का लक्ष्य रखता है।
- In **January 2025**, Indian Foreign Secretary **Vikram Misri** met **Taliban Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi** in Dubai to discuss these developments.



जनवरी 2025 में, भारतीय विदेश सचिव विक्रम मिश्री ने दुबई में तालिबान के कार्यवाहक विदेश मंत्री मावलवी आमिर खान मुत्ताकी से मुलाकात की, जहां इन संभावनाओं पर चर्चा हुई।

Engaging with Taliban 2.0

तालिबान 2.0 से जुड़ाव

- The **Narendra Modi government** is engaging with the **Taliban** despite the **Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) political base**, citing **pragmatism and realpolitik** as key reasons.

नरेंद्र मोदी सरकार भारतीय जनता पार्टी (भाजपा) के राजनीतिक आधार के बावजूद तालिबान के साथ जुड़ाव कर रही है, और इसे व्यावहारिकता और वास्तविक राजनीति का हिस्सा बता रही है।

- **Officials argue that the Taliban is here to stay**, and that India must come to terms with its rule. However, **Taliban rule is not necessarily permanent**, as **internal conflicts are growing**.

अधिकारियों का कहना है कि तालिबान स्थायी रूप से बना रहेगा, और भारत को इसे स्वीकार करना होगा। हालांकि, तालिबान का शासन अनंतकाल तक नहीं रहेगा, क्योंकि आंतरिक संघर्ष बढ़ रहे हैं।

- **Haqqani factions and Kandahari clerics are in conflict over girls' education**, and key figures like **Sher Abbas Stanekzai and Sirajuddin Haqqani** have reportedly fled Afghanistan after **advocating for women's rights**.

हक्कानी गुट और कंधारी मौलवियों के बीच लड़कियों की शिक्षा पर मतभेद हैं, और शेर अब्बास स्टानेकजई और सिराजुद्दीन हक्कानी को महिलाओं के अधिकारों की वकालत करने पर देश छोड़ना पड़ा।

- **Taliban's economic mismanagement, drying up of foreign aid, Pakistan returning Afghan refugees, and rising tensions along the Durand Line** may further weaken their grip.

तालिबान की आर्थिक कुप्रबंधन, विदेशी सहायता की कमी, पाकिस्तान द्वारा अफगान शरणार्थियों की वापसी, और इरंड रेखा पर बढ़ते तनाव उनके शासन को कमजोर कर सकते हैं।

Arguments for and Against Engagement

संबंध बनाने के पक्ष और विपक्ष में तर्क

- Some argue that **India can only help common Afghans by working with the Taliban**, but history shows that **India has provided aid through alternative channels (1996-2001)**.

कुछ लोग मानते हैं कि भारत केवल तालिबान के साथ काम करके आम अफगानों की मदद कर सकता है, लेकिन इतिहास बताता है कि भारत ने पहले भी वैकल्पिक चैनलों के माध्यम से सहायता प्रदान की थी (1996-2001)।

- **Others claim that India risks losing strategic space in Afghanistan** if it does not reopen its embassy. However, expecting **strategic gains from the Taliban is highly uncertain** given their **ideology**.



कुछ लोगों का तर्क है कि यदि भारत अपना दूतावास फिर से नहीं खोलता, तो वह अफगानिस्तान में अपनी रणनीतिक स्थिति खो सकता है। हालांकि, तालिबान की विचारधारा को देखते हुए रणनीतिक लाभ की उम्मीद करना अनिश्चित है।

- India previously shared intelligence and security ties with the Afghan Republic, but such cooperation is unlikely with the Taliban, who attacked Indian missions, workers, and diplomats for 25 years.

भारत ने पहले अफगान गणराज्य के साथ खुफिया और सुरक्षा सहयोग किया था, लेकिन तालिबान के साथ यह असंभव लगता है, क्योंकि उन्होंने 25 वर्षों तक भारतीय मिशनों, श्रमिकों और राजनयिकों पर हमले किए थे।

Concerns Over India's Approach

भारत के रुख को लेकर चिंताएं

- Afghans feel betrayed by India's refusal to issue visas to those fleeing the Taliban in 2021, including those who risked their lives to protect Indian interests.

अफगानों को भारत द्वारा 2021 में तालिबान से भागने वालों को वीजा न देने पर विश्वासघात महसूस हुआ, जिनमें वे लोग भी शामिल थे जिन्होंने भारतीय हितों की रक्षा के लिए अपनी जान जोखिम में डाली।

- India's past engagement with Afghan refugees created goodwill, which proved valuable during Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani's presidencies.

भारत का अफगान शरणार्थियों के साथ पहले का जुड़ाव हमिद करजई और अशरफ गनी के शासनकाल के दौरान बहुत फायदेमंद साबित हुआ।

- India's legacy of supporting the Northern Alliance (1990s) is remembered, but its current closeness to the Taliban disappoints many Afghans.

भारत की उत्तरी गठबंधन (1990 के दशक) का समर्थन करने की विरासत अभी भी याद की जाती है, लेकिन तालिबान के करीब जाने से कई अफगान निराश हैं।

Reversing Policy

नीति में बदलाव की जरूरत

- The Indian government must reassess its approach to Afghanistan and reconsider allowing a Taliban-appointed Ambassador in Delhi.

भारतीय सरकार को अफगानिस्तान पर अपने रुख का पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना चाहिए और नई दिल्ली में तालिबान-नियुक्त राजदूत की अनुमति देने के निर्णय पर पुनर्विचार करना चाहिए।

- While engagement with Kabul is necessary, India should also rebuild ties with Taliban opposition groups.

काबुल के साथ संपर्क बनाए रखना आवश्यक है, लेकिन भारत को तालिबान विरोधी समूहों के साथ भी संबंध फिर से स्थापित करने चाहिए।



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- **India must speak up about women's rights and provide a platform for Afghan women and exiled leaders.**
भारत को महिलाओं के अधिकारों पर आवाज उठानी चाहिए और अफगान महिलाओं व निर्वासित नेताओं को एक मंच प्रदान करना चाहिए।
- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) could have pressured the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) to recognize the Afghan women's cricket team.**
भारतीय क्रिकेट नियंत्रण बोर्ड (BCCI) को अफगानिस्तान क्रिकेट बोर्ड (ACB) पर दबाव डालना चाहिए था कि वह अफगान महिला क्रिकेट टीम को मान्यता दे।
- **India should allow Afghan exile groups to hold conferences and forums in India to promote political representation for Afghans.**
भारत को अफगान निर्वासित समूहों को भारत में सम्मेलन और मंच आयोजित करने की अनुमति देनी चाहिए ताकि अफगानों के राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधित्व को बढ़ावा मिल सके।
- **India must balance engagement with those in power while maintaining connections across the political spectrum, ensuring its relevance in all possible future outcomes.**
भारत को सत्ता में रहने वालों से जुड़ाव बनाए रखना चाहिए, लेकिन राजनीतिक रूप से विविध संपर्क भी बनाए रखना चाहिए, ताकि वह भविष्य के सभी संभावित परिणामों में प्रासंगिक बना रहे।

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The Canadian election, shaped by Trudeau and Trump

GS Paper II: North America

Canadian politics may be at an unprecedented inflection point, both internally and externally, with two narrowly divided political parties domestically (the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party of Canada) and the Donald Trump presidency in the United States straining its stability amid external sovereignty claims. Within a matter of months, the domestic political landscape in Canada has changed considerably. Justin Trudeau, the former Prime Minister and from the ruling Liberal Party, lost support within his party and had to resign, paving the way for the party's new leader, Mark Carney.

Mr. Carney, who is considered a political rookie but also a reputable economist, realised that his party did not have the numbers in Canada's Parliament. As he stared at a no-confidence vote, which his Liberal party was certain to lose, he was compelled to call snap elections on April 28. It is probably the most opportune moment for the Liberal Party in the recent past for a nation-wide election, with soaring domestic support enabling it to close a double digit poll gap with the Conservative Party.

Some gain for the Liberal Party

Behind the political resurgence of the Liberal Party has been a revanchist Trump presidency which has stridently argued for the geographical, political and economic unification of Canada with the U.S. as America's 51st State – a demand which has been vehemently rebuffed by the Canadian government and Canadians alike. Canadian sentiments have been further rattled by U.S. trade policies.

On February 1 this year, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on imports from Canada, Mexico and China. Mr. Trump backed off from raising additional tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium to 50% in early March after Canada threatened retaliation by slapping a 25% tax on electricity supply from Ontario to the U.S. The Liberal Party used the opportunity to drumbeat a national unity calling



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for the unification of Canadians across political divides.

The other factor responsible for the party's resurgence in such a short time is the rising opposition to and even hatred for Mr. Trump and America in Canada. Mr. Trump's policies have fuelled a patriotic bout in Canada with a growing demand to boycott things that are American and to buy Canadian.

The Canadian reaction to American tariff coercion has been driven by a nationalistic impulse which was not witnessed in Ottawa in the past, especially against the U.S. In fact, the decision by most Canadians to avoid travel to the U.S. has caused Canadian airlines to stop service to some American cities.

On the other side of the fence

The political fortunes of the leader of the Conservative Party, Pierre Poilievre, have altered to his detriment. The party has slipped to a tie in polls with the Liberal Party, thus squandering his earlier lead. Many Canadians now see a shadow of Mr. Trump in Mr. Poilievre who has espoused deregulation, tax cuts and talks about doing away with liberal policies of the Trudeau government on environment, energy, culture and gender. Mr. Poilievre has borrowed Mr. Trump's language in his war against the liberal elite of Canada, culture wars, gender, cryptocurrency and climate action among other issues.

As Mr. Carney and Mr. Poilievre hit the campaign trail, it will be exacting for both candidates. Mr. Carney remains an unelected Prime Minister who will have to take up centrist positions on policy issues to avoid Mr. Trudeau's extremes, especially as he had declined to join Mr. Trudeau's cabinet. Mr. Carney enjoys certain advantages of being an unorthodox figure as well as an international financier in times of economic upheaval and tensions with the U.S., which is Canada's most important trading partner.

Mr. Poilievre may benefit from 'liberal fatigue' within a substantial part of the Canadian polity

because of the Liberal Party's long innings. Most of all, Mr. Poilievre's moment may have coincided with the ascendance of conservative politics and the 'rise of the right' across the world. Amidst all these, Mr. Poilievre will bank on his fiery oratory skills while avoiding the Trumpian tropes.

There are four main contenders in the elections – Mr. Carney, Mr. Poilievre, Bloc Québécois leader Yves-Francois Blanchet and New Democratic Party leader Jagmeet Singh. While Mr. Blanchet may have widened his political mandate, Bloc Québécois remains essentially provincial. Mr. Singh has struggled to sustain his support in recent years, which leaves only two main contenders in the race.

Outlook for Canada's ties

Whoever wins the next election will have to face the test of steering Canada amid domestic and foreign policy constraints. In the short term, while the most daunting challenges will be the repercussions of a hard-line economic and political posture from Washington, it is Mr. Trudeau's legacy that could continue to cast dark shadows on Ottawa's relations abroad, especially in Asia, under the next leader. A cyclical policy of economic reprisals with its most important neighbour is likely to cause Canada's economic reorientation to Asia and Europe.

In Asia however, Mr. Trudeau's acute political positions have left Canada in the lurch with its relations with two large Asian nations, India and China, in disarray. Additionally, Ottawa's strategic outlook in the form of its Indo-Pacific policy remains all but words.

Both Mr. Carney and Mr. Poilievre have indicated that they will seek better relations with India. However the political support that their respective party receives from Mr. Singh's party which lends open support to the Khalistani groups within and outside Canada will be the greatest outlier in shaping ties with New Delhi. Despite an anticipated India-Canada reset, Delhi must be ready for any outcome.

The Canadian election, shaped by Trudeau and Trump

डूडो और ट्रंप के प्रभाव में कनाडा का चुनाव

Political Landscape and Trudeau's Resignation

राजनीतिक परिदृश्य और डूडो का इस्तीफा

- Canadian politics is at an unprecedented inflection point, with two narrowly divided political parties—the Liberal Party and the Conservative Party of Canada.

कनाडाई राजनीति एक अभूतपूर्व मोड़ पर है, जहां दो प्रमुख दल—लिबरल पार्टी और कंजरवेटिव पार्टी ऑफ कनाडा—करीबी मुकाबले में हैं।

- The Donald Trump presidency in the U.S. has strained Canada's political stability amid external sovereignty claims.

अमेरिका में डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का शासन कनाडा की राजनीतिक स्थिरता को बाहरी संप्रभुता दावों के कारण प्रभावित कर रहा है।

- Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lost support within his own Liberal Party and resigned, making way for new party leader Mark Carney.



पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री जस्टिन ट्रूडो ने अपनी लिबरल पार्टी में समर्थन खो दिया और इस्तीफा दिया, जिससे नए पार्टी नेता मार्क कार्नी के लिए रास्ता खुला।

Mark Carney and Snap Elections

मार्क कार्नी और त्वरित चुनाव

- **Mark Carney, a political rookie but a reputed economist, realized that his party did not have enough numbers in Parliament.**
मार्क कार्नी, जो राजनीति में नए लेकिन एक प्रतिष्ठित अर्थशास्त्री हैं, उन्होंने महसूस किया कि उनकी पार्टी के पास संसद में पर्याप्त संख्या नहीं है।
- **Facing an imminent no-confidence vote, Carney called for snap elections on April 28.**
अविश्वास प्रस्ताव का सामना करते हुए, कार्नी ने 28 अप्रैल को त्वरित चुनाव की घोषणा की।
- **Recent domestic support for the Liberal Party has helped it close the poll gap with the Conservative Party.**
हाल ही में लिबरल पार्टी के लिए घरेलू समर्थन बढ़ा है, जिससे उसने कंजरवेटिव पार्टी के साथ चुनावी अंतर को कम किया है।

Impact of Trump's Presidency on Canada

कनाडा पर ट्रंप के शासन का प्रभाव

- **Trump's policies have fueled tensions, as he advocated for Canada's integration with the U.S. as the 51st state.**
ट्रंप की नीतियों ने तनाव बढ़ाया, क्योंकि उन्होंने कनाडा को अमेरिका का 51वां राज्य बनाने की वकालत की।
- **This demand was strongly rejected by the Canadian government and citizens.**
इस मांग को कनाडाई सरकार और नागरिकों ने कड़े शब्दों में खारिज कर दिया।
- **On February 1, 2025, Trump imposed a 25% tariff on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China.**
1 फरवरी 2025 को, ट्रंप ने कनाडा, मैक्सिको और चीन से आयात पर 25% टैरिफ लगा दिया।
- **In March 2025, Canada threatened to impose a 25% tax on electricity exports to the U.S., forcing Trump to back down on raising steel and aluminum tariffs to 50%.**
मार्च 2025 में, कनाडा ने अमेरिका को निर्यात की जाने वाली बिजली पर 25% कर लगाने की धमकी दी, जिससे ट्रंप को स्टील और एल्युमीनियम पर 50% टैरिफ बढ़ाने के फैसले से पीछे हटना पड़ा।
- **The Liberal Party capitalized on this dispute, using it as a rallying point for national unity.**
लिबरल पार्टी ने इस विवाद का लाभ उठाया, और इसे राष्ट्रीय एकता का मुद्दा बनाया।



Growing Anti-Trump and Nationalist Sentiments in Canada

कनाडा में बढ़ती ट्रंप-विरोधी और राष्ट्रवादी भावनाएँ

- Rising **opposition and hatred for Trump** in Canada have strengthened **nationalist sentiments**.

कनाडा में ट्रंप के प्रति बढ़ती विरोध और नाराजगी ने राष्ट्रवादी भावनाओं को मजबूत किया।

- Many Canadians have **started boycotting American products**, opting to **buy Canadian goods instead**.

कई कनाडाई नागरिकों ने अमेरिकी उत्पादों का बहिष्कार करना शुरू कर दिया, और इसके बजाय कनाडाई उत्पाद खरीदने को प्राथमिकता दी।

- The **backlash against U.S. trade policies** has led to a **reduction in travel to the U.S.**, forcing **Canadian airlines to halt services to some American cities**.

अमेरिकी व्यापार नीतियों के खिलाफ प्रतिक्रिया के कारण अमेरिका की यात्रा में कमी आई है, जिससे कनाडाई एयरलाइनों को कुछ अमेरिकी शहरों के लिए सेवाएं रोकनी पड़ी हैं।

On the other side of the fence

दूसरी तरफ़ की राजनीति

Pierre Poilievre's Political Decline

पियरे पॉइलियेरे की राजनीतिक गिरावट

- **Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre** has lost political momentum, with his party now **tied in polls with the Liberal Party**, erasing his earlier lead.

कंजरवेटिव पार्टी के नेता पियरे पॉइलियेरे ने राजनीतिक बढ़त खो दी है, और उनकी पार्टी अब लिबरल पार्टी के साथ चुनावी सर्वेक्षणों में बराबरी पर आ गई है।

- Many Canadians **see similarities between Poilievre and Donald Trump**, as he supports **deregulation, tax cuts, and reversing Trudeau's liberal policies on environment, energy, culture, and gender**.

कई कनाडाई पॉइलियेरे और डोनाल्ड ट्रंप के बीच समानताएं देखते हैं, क्योंकि वे विनियमन हटाने, कर कटौती और डूडो की उदार नीतियों को पलटने का समर्थन करते हैं, खासकर पर्यावरण, ऊर्जा, संस्कृति और लिंग से जुड़े मुद्दों पर।

- **Poilievre has adopted Trump's rhetoric** on issues such as **culture wars, gender rights, cryptocurrency, and climate change**.

पॉइलियेरे ने ट्रंप की भाषा अपनाई है, खासकर संस्कृति युद्ध, लिंग अधिकार, क्रिप्टोकॉरेंसी और जलवायु परिवर्तन जैसे मुद्दों पर।

The Election Battle: Carney vs. Poilievre

चुनावी संघर्ष: कार्नी बनाम पॉइलियेरे



- **Mark Carney and Pierre Poilievre** will face a tough election campaign.
मार्क कार्नी और पियरे पॉइलियेरे के लिए चुनाव अभियान कठिन रहेगा।
- **Carney is an unelected Prime Minister** who must take **centrist positions** to differentiate himself from **Trudeau's extreme policies**.
कार्नी एक अप्रयुक्त प्रधानमंत्री हैं, जिन्हें मध्यमार्गी नीतियों को अपनाना होगा ताकि वह डूडो की चरमपंथी नीतियों से अलग दिखें।
- Carney's **strengths include his experience as an international financier**, especially during **economic uncertainty and U.S.-Canada trade tensions**.
कार्नी की ताकत उनके अंतरराष्ट्रीय वित्तीय विशेषज्ञता में है, खासकर आर्थिक अनिश्चितता और अमेरिका-कनाडा व्यापार तनाव के समय।
- **Poilievre may benefit from 'liberal fatigue'** among Canadians due to the **Liberal Party's long rule** and the **global rise of right-wing politics**.
पॉइलियेरे को 'उदारवादी थकान' से लाभ मिल सकता है, क्योंकि कनाडा में लिबरल पार्टी का लंबे समय तक शासन रहा है और दुनिया भर में दक्षिणपंथी राजनीति का उदय हो रहा है।
- Poilievre will rely on his **fiery oratory skills** while avoiding **extreme Trump-like statements**.
पॉइलियेरे अपनी जोशीली भाषणशैली पर भरोसा करेंगे, जबकि अत्यधिक ट्रंप जैसी बयानबाजी से बचने की कोशिश करेंगे।

Key Contenders in the Elections

चुनाव में मुख्य दावेदार

- The **four main candidates** in the Canadian election are:
कनाडाई चुनाव में चार मुख्य उम्मीदवार हैं:
 - **Mark Carney (Liberal Party)**
मार्क कार्नी (लिबरल पार्टी)
 - **Pierre Poilievre (Conservative Party)**
पियरे पॉइलियेरे (कंजरवेटिव पार्टी)
 - **Yves-François Blanchet (Bloc Québécois)**
यवेस-फ्रांस्वा ब्लैंशे (ब्लॉक क्यूबेक्वा)
 - **Jagmeet Singh (New Democratic Party)**
जगमीत सिंह (न्यू डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी)
- While **Blanchet has expanded his political mandate**, **Bloc Québécois** remains a provincial party.
ब्लैंशे ने अपनी राजनीतिक पहुंच बढ़ाई है, लेकिन ब्लॉक क्यूबेक्वा अब भी एक प्रांतीय पार्टी बनी हुई है।
- **Jagmeet Singh has struggled to maintain support**, making the race a **two-way contest** between Carney and Poilievre.
जगमीत सिंह को समर्थन बनाए रखने में कठिनाई हो रही है, जिससे चुनाव मुख्य रूप से कार्नी और पॉइलियेरे के बीच मुकाबला बन गया है।



Outlook for Canada's Global Relations

कनाडा के वैश्विक संबंधों की संभावनाएं

- The next Prime Minister will face challenges in managing domestic and foreign policies.
अगला प्रधानमंत्री घरेलू और विदेश नीति प्रबंधन में चुनौतियों का सामना करेगा।
- Canada's biggest challenge will be dealing with Washington's economic and political hardline stance.
कनाडा की सबसे बड़ी चुनौती वॉशिंगटन की आर्थिक और राजनीतिक सख्त नीतियों से निपटना होगा।
- Trudeau's legacy has damaged Canada's relations with Asia, particularly India and China.
टूडो की नीतियों ने कनाडा के एशियाई देशों, विशेष रूप से भारत और चीन के साथ संबंधों को नुकसान पहुंचाया है।
- Canada's Indo-Pacific policy remains largely ineffective.
कनाडा की इंडो-पैसिफिक नीति अभी भी प्रभावहीन बनी हुई है।

India-Canada Relations: The Khalistan Factor

भारत-कनाडा संबंध: खालिस्तान मुद्दा

- Both Carney and Poilievre have stated they want better relations with India.
कार्नी और पॉइलिव्रे दोनों ने कहा है कि वे भारत के साथ बेहतर संबंध चाहते हैं।
- However, their parties rely on support from Jagmeet Singh's NDP, which openly supports Khalistani groups in Canada.
हालांकि, उनकी पार्टियां जगमीत सिंह की एनडीपी के समर्थन पर निर्भर करती हैं, जो खुले तौर पर कनाडा में खालिस्तानी समूहों का समर्थन करती है।
- This complicates the possibility of an India-Canada reset, requiring New Delhi to prepare for all possible political outcomes.
यह भारत-कनाडा संबंधों के पुनर्स्थापन को जटिल बनाता है, और नई दिल्ली को सभी संभावित राजनीतिक परिणामों के लिए तैयार रहना चाहिए।



A bad omen for public trust in vaccines

GS Paper II: Health Sector

Over the last few years, multiple petitions have been filed before the courts regarding vaccines. While most of them pertain to COVID-19 vaccines, two of them pertain to a rabies vaccine and a rotavirus vaccine. While not all these petitions have been admitted by the courts, they reflect growing concerns related to how vaccines are approved and administered in India.

Concerns in petitions

It would be a mistake to dismiss these petitions as part of the larger 'anti-vax' movement, which is fuelled primarily by conspiracy theories. One of these petitions was filed by a group in Kerala before the Supreme Court. The group complained about deaths caused due to the alleged failure of anti-rabies vaccine. Other petitions raise questions about transparency of clinical trial data, inadequate disclosure of the side-effects of vaccines, the monitoring of vaccine-related adverse events, and compensation in cases where vaccines may have caused deaths or serious adverse events. Trust in the regulator appears to be abysmal since the petitioners in the cases pertaining to the rabies vaccine and COVID-19 vaccines have requested courts to form independent committees to re-evaluate clinical trial data submitted by the vaccine manufacturers to the regulator.

Courts are poorly placed to decide such issues. If history is any indicator, these cases will drag on for years before poorly reasoned orders with unsatisfactory conclusions are provided. To complicate matters, vaccine manufacturers such as Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech have gone on a spree filing defamation lawsuits against those questioning or criticising their vaccines. Some courts have granted these companies ex-parte interim injunctions. These responses are not good for public health or the credibility of India's vaccine manufacturers. It is time



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Multiple vaccine-related petitions that have been filed before courts reflect growing concerns about how vaccines are approved and administered in India

for policymakers in the Ministry of Health to tackle some of these issues through policy deliberations instead of litigation.

The trigger for many of these petitions has been the opacity with which vaccines were approved by the drugs regulator, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). There are two issues on the transparency front. The first is that the CDSCO makes key regulatory decisions along with "independent" doctors, but their details are not disclosed. Disclosing the names of the people and their potential conflicts of interest along with a transcript of their deliberations during the approval process is a bare minimum to build public confidence in the process.

The second issue is regarding the clinical trial data which forms the basis of the approval process. Typically, pharmaceutical companies conduct clinical trials and submit data to the regulator. As of now, the CDSCO does not release any information it evaluates prior to granting regulatory approval. This needs to change. The CDSCO should publicly disclose all raw clinical trial data and its own internal analysis, subject to redactions to protect patient privacy.

The other issue raised in one of the COVID-related petitions is the disclosure required to be made to citizens about the possible side-effects of a vaccine, without which there cannot be informed consent. It is not enough for the government to disclose such information on some obscure website. It needs to be made in a format which is understandable to citizens at the time of vaccination so as to enable them to make an informed decision. Indian law does not spell out a framework for 'informed consent' outside the context of clinical trials.

A related issue here is putting in place a transparent pharmacovigilance system which collects data on adverse events due to vaccination, known as an

'adverse event following immunisation' (AEFI). India has ad-hoc guidelines in place, but these lack the force of a parliamentary law and do not appear to be implemented well. A well-functioning AEFI system will go a long way in collecting data of high quality that pharmaceutical companies cannot control.

Issue of compensation

The last issue is that of compensation for those who lost family members due to the side-effects of COVID-19 vaccines. The Kerala High Court in *Sayeeda v. Union of India (2022)* asked the government to put in place a policy to deal with such claims. The government approached the Supreme Court against this order. Final arguments remain pending.

Under the first principles of tort law, such claims of compensation should be made against the vaccine manufacturers because they manufactured, sold, and profited from the vaccines. There is no reason for the government to step in and provide compensation unless it has agreed to indemnify vaccine manufacturers. Since the government has refused to make vaccine purchase agreements public, we do not know whether such an indemnification clause exists in these agreements. In fact, foreign vaccine manufacturers did not bid for tenders during the pandemic specifically due to the government's refusal to indemnify them; as a result, Indian vaccine manufacturers profited handsomely. As a corollary, they should also bear the risk.

Save for the compensation issue which has to be resolved by the courts, it would be a blunder for the Ministry of Health to leave the other issues to lawyers and judges. These are critical policy issues with long-term consequences for public trust in vaccines. It would behove the Health Minister to assure the petitioners in these cases that the government is cognisant of their concerns and promise them a policy response, preferably through a new law.



A bad omen for public trust in vaccines

टीकों में जन विश्वास के लिए एक बुरा संकेत

- Over the last few years, multiple petitions have been filed before the courts regarding vaccines.

पिछले कुछ वर्षों में टीकों को लेकर अदालतों में कई याचिकाएं दाखिल की गई हैं।

- While most of them pertain to COVID-19 vaccines, two of them relate to a rabies vaccine and a rotavirus vaccine.

इनमें से अधिकांश कोविड-19 टीकों से संबंधित हैं, जबकि दो रेबीज और रोटावायरस टीकों से संबंधित हैं।

- These petitions reflect growing concerns about how vaccines are approved and administered in India.

ये याचिकाएं इस बात को प्रतिबिंबित करती हैं कि भारत में टीकों को मंजूरी और प्रशासन कैसे दिया जाता है।

Concerns in petitions

याचिकाओं में चिंताएं

- It would be a mistake to dismiss these petitions as part of the larger 'anti-vax' movement.

इन याचिकाओं को 'टीका विरोधी आंदोलन' का हिस्सा मानना गलती होगी।

- One petition was filed by a group in Kerala before the Supreme Court, complaining about deaths due to the alleged failure of the anti-rabies vaccine.

एक याचिका केरल के एक समूह द्वारा सुप्रीम कोर्ट में दायर की गई, जिसमें एंटी-रेबीज वैक्सीन की कथित विफलता के कारण हुई मौतों की शिकायत की गई।

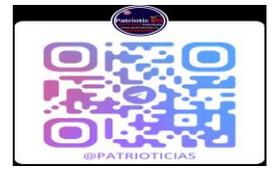
- Other petitions raise concerns about:

- Transparency of clinical trial data
- Side-effects of vaccines and their disclosure
- Monitoring of vaccine-related adverse events
- Compensation in cases of vaccine-related deaths or serious adverse effects

- अन्य याचिकाएं निम्नलिखित मुद्दों पर चिंता जताती हैं:

- नैदानिक परीक्षण डेटा की पारदर्शिता
- टीकों के दुष्प्रभाव और उनकी जानकारी
- टीकों से जुड़े प्रतिकूल घटनाओं की निगरानी
- टीका-जनित मौतों या गंभीर दुष्प्रभावों के लिए मुआवजा

- Trust in the regulator appears to be very low, as petitioners have requested independent committees to review clinical trial data submitted by vaccine manufacturers.



- नियामक में विश्वास बहुत कम नजर आता है, क्योंकि याचिकाकर्ताओं ने स्वतंत्र समितियों द्वारा नैदानिक परीक्षण डेटा की पुनः समीक्षा की मांग की है।

Challenges in the legal process

कानूनी प्रक्रिया में चुनौतियां

- Courts are poorly placed to decide such issues, and cases may take years before reaching a conclusion.
अदालतें ऐसे मामलों को सुलझाने के लिए सही स्थान नहीं हैं, और इन मामलों में सालों लग सकते हैं।
- Vaccine manufacturers like Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech have filed defamation lawsuits against critics.
सीरम इंस्टीट्यूट और भारत बायोटेक ने आलोचकों के खिलाफ मानहानि के मुकदमे दायर किए हैं।
- Some courts have granted them ex-parte interim injunctions, restricting criticism.
कुछ अदालतों ने एकतरफा अंतरिम निषेधाज्ञा देकर आलोचना को सीमित कर दिया है।
- The Ministry of Health should address these concerns through policy discussions instead of legal battles.
स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय को इन चिंताओं को नीतिगत चर्चा के माध्यम से हल करना चाहिए, न कि कानूनी लड़ाइयों के माध्यम से।

Lack of transparency in vaccine approval

टीका अनुमोदन में पारदर्शिता की कमी

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has approved vaccines with lack of transparency.
केंद्रीय औषधि मानक नियंत्रण संगठन (CDSCO) ने पारदर्शिता की कमी के साथ टीकों को मंजूरी दी है।
- Two major transparency issues exist:
 - Names and conflicts of interest of doctors in approval decisions are not disclosed.
 - Clinical trial data is not made public.
 - दो मुख्य पारदर्शिता मुद्दे हैं:
 - मंजूरी निर्णयों में शामिल डॉक्टरों के नाम और उनके हितों का टकराव सार्वजनिक नहीं किया जाता।
 - नैदानिक परीक्षण डेटा सार्वजनिक नहीं किया जाता।
- CDSCO should publicly disclose all raw clinical trial data while protecting patient privacy.
CDSCO को सभी कच्चे नैदानिक परीक्षण डेटा को सार्वजनिक करना चाहिए, लेकिन रोगी की गोपनीयता सुरक्षित रखनी चाहिए।

Issue of informed consent

जानकारी आधारित सहमति का मुद्दा



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



- **Citizens must be informed** about possible **side-effects of vaccines** at the time of vaccination.

नागरिकों को टीकाकरण के समय टीकों के संभावित दुष्प्रभावों की जानकारी दी जानी चाहिए।

- **India lacks a clear framework for informed consent** outside of clinical trials.
भारत में नैदानिक परीक्षणों के अलावा 'जानकारी आधारित सहमति' के लिए कोई स्पष्ट रूपरेखा नहीं है।
- **The government should ensure** that information is available in a **simple and accessible format**.

सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि जानकारी सरल और सुगम प्रारूप में उपलब्ध हो।

Need for a transparent pharmacovigilance system

एक पारदर्शी औषधि निगरानी प्रणाली की आवश्यकता

- India lacks a **strong Adverse Event Following Immunisation (AEFI) system** to track vaccine side-effects.
भारत में टीकाकरण के बाद प्रतिकूल घटनाओं (AEFI) की निगरानी करने के लिए एक मजबूत प्रणाली नहीं है।
- **Current guidelines are weak and not legally binding**.
वर्तमान दिशानिर्देश कमजोर हैं और कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी नहीं हैं।
- A well-functioning AEFI system **should be implemented through parliamentary law**.
एक सुसंगत AEFI प्रणाली को संसदीय कानून के माध्यम से लागू किया जाना चाहिए।

Issue of compensation

मुआवजे का मुद्दा

- **The Kerala High Court in Sayeeda v. Union of India (2022)** directed the government to form a **policy for compensating vaccine-related deaths**.
केरल उच्च न्यायालय ने सायदा बनाम भारत संघ (2022) मामले में सरकार को टीका-जनित मौतों के लिए मुआवजा नीति बनाने का निर्देश दिया।
- The government **challenged this order** in the Supreme Court.
सरकार ने इस आदेश को सुप्रीम कोर्ट में चुनौती दी।
- Under **tort law, vaccine manufacturers should be liable** for compensation, not the government.
टॉर्ट कानून के अनुसार, मुआवजे की जिम्मेदारी टीका निर्माताओं की होनी चाहिए, न कि सरकार की।
- The government has **not disclosed vaccine purchase agreements**, raising concerns about **indemnity clauses**.
सरकार ने टीका खरीद समझौतों का खुलासा नहीं किया, जिससे इंडेमनिटी क्लॉज़ को लेकर चिंताएं बढ़ी हैं।

The need for government intervention

सरकार के हस्तक्षेप की आवश्यकता



- Except for the **compensation issue**, all other concerns should be addressed by the **Ministry of Health through policy measures**.
मुआवजे के मुद्दे को छोड़कर, अन्य सभी चिंताओं को स्वास्थ्य मंत्रालय द्वारा नीतिगत उपायों के माध्यम से हल किया जाना चाहिए।
- A **new law** is needed to ensure **vaccine transparency, informed consent, and strong pharmacovigilance**.
टीका पारदर्शिता, जानकारी आधारित सहमति, और मजबूत औषधि निगरानी सुनिश्चित करने के लिए एक नया कानून आवश्यक है।

How is an in-house inquiry conducted?

What happens if a judge is accused of judicial misconduct? Why is Justice Yashwant Varma under scrutiny? What has the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court recommended? Is criminal punishment initiated when a judge is found guilty? Should there be a more transparent process?

GS Paper II: Judicial Enquiry

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) has constituted an in-house committee to conduct an inquiry into allegations of misconduct against Justice Yashwant Varma. This follows recovery of huge piles of cash at his residence during a fire-control operation.

What is the current issue?

A fire broke out at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma of the Delhi High Court on March 14. The fire-control personnel discovered huge piles of cash that was burnt in the fire inside the storeroom. The Chief Justice of Delhi High Court conducted the preliminary inquiry and reported to the CJI that his prima facie opinion is for a deeper probe into the entire matter. As per the direction of the CJI, responses were sought from Justice Yashwant Varma on the preliminary inquiry findings. Justice Varma responded that no cash was ever placed by him or his family members in the storeroom, and that they were never shown the sacks of burnt currency notes during the fire-control operation. A three-member committee has been constituted as per the in-house procedure of the Supreme Court for conducting an inquiry into the allegations. Meanwhile, judicial work has been withdrawn from Justice Varma and he has been transferred to his parent Allahabad High Court by the collegium.

What is an in-house procedure?

In order to probe into complaints of alleged misbehaviour against judges of the higher judiciary, the Supreme Court has developed an in-house procedure of inquiry. The resolution for in-house procedures for action against judges was adopted in 1999 and made public in 2014.

When a complaint is received against a judge of a High Court, the CJI will decide



An overhaul: Burnt currency notes near Justice Yashwant Varma's house, in New Delhi on March 23. ANI

whether the issue is frivolous or warrants an inquiry. If an inquiry is deemed necessary, the judge's initial response along with comments of the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court are taken on record. The CJI can then form a three-member committee consisting of two Chief Justices from other High Courts and one High Court judge. The committee after the inquiry can provide a recommendation that the misconduct is serious enough to warrant removal or not serious enough. If the recommendation is not for removal, the judge would be apprised accordingly. However, if the recommendation is for the judge's removal, he/she will be asked to resign. In the event of the judge unwilling to resign,

the President and the Prime Minister will be informed of the findings for Parliament to initiate action for removal as per provisions of the Constitution. Any complaint against the Chief Justice of a High Court, would be inquired by a committee consisting of a Supreme Court judge and two Chief Justices of other High Courts. In case of a complaint against a Supreme Court judge, the committee would consist of three Supreme Court Judges. In the instant case, based on the preliminary opinion of the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, the CJI has constituted a committee consisting of the Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana Court, the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court, and a judge of the Karnataka High Court

to inquire into the allegations.

What reforms are required?

The details of in-house inquiries are kept confidential by the Supreme Court. This practice may be changed to disclose the key findings of the inquiry to instil transparency and confidence in the whole process. Furthermore, in the past, no judge has suffered criminal punishment even after having been found guilty of misbehaviour by the inquiry committee. This needs to be addressed and the guilty should be brought to book. In the U.K., there is an autonomous statutory office called the 'Judicial Conduct Investigations Office' that investigates allegations of judicial misconduct. A similar autonomous and permanent body may be established in India under the CJI.

One of the root causes for the problem probably lies in the opaqueness of the collegium process that is followed for the appointment of judges. There needs to be a renewed debate on operationalising the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), that was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 as unconstitutional for violating the basic structure of the independence of judiciary. The collegium process has no doubt ensured independence of the judiciary in appointments. However, it does suffer from lack of accountability and transparency. A broad-based NJAC headed by the CJI with representatives from various stakeholders including members of the legislature, lawyer associations and academia may be set up on the lines of the Judicial Service Commission in South Africa. The CJI and other senior judges may be provided with a veto to have the final say in the appointment process. Such a set up would make the selection process more transparent and inclusive without compromising the independence of the judiciary.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He currently trains civil service aspirants at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

▼ The Chief Justice of India (CJI) has constituted an in-house committee to conduct an inquiry into allegations of misconduct against Justice Yashwant Varma.

▼ In order to probe into complaints of alleged misbehaviour against judges of the higher judiciary, the Supreme Court has developed an in-house procedure of inquiry.

▼ There needs to be a renewed debate on operationalising the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), that was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 as unconstitutional for violating the basic structure of the independence of judiciary.

In-house Inquiry Process

इन-हाउस जांच प्रक्रिया



When a judge is accused of misconduct, an in-house committee is formed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

जब किसी न्यायाधीश पर कदाचार का आरोप लगाया जाता है, तो भारत के मुख्य न्यायाधीश (CJI) द्वारा इन-हाउस समिति गठित की जाती है।

- The in-house procedure was adopted in 1999 and made public in 2014.
इन-हाउस प्रक्रिया को 1999 में अपनाया गया था और 2014 में सार्वजनिक किया गया।
- If the complaint is against a High Court judge, the CJI forms a three-member committee consisting of:
यदि शिकायत किसी उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के खिलाफ हो, तो CJI तीन सदस्यीय समिति का गठन करता है, जिसमें शामिल होते हैं:
 - Two Chief Justices from other High Courts.
दो मुख्य न्यायाधीश अन्य उच्च न्यायालयों से।
 - One High Court judge.
एक उच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश।
- If the complaint is against a Chief Justice of a High Court, the inquiry is conducted by a committee of:
यदि शिकायत किसी उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश के खिलाफ हो, तो जांच समिति में शामिल होते हैं:
 - One Supreme Court judge.
एक सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश।
 - Two Chief Justices from other High Courts.
दो मुख्य न्यायाधीश अन्य उच्च न्यायालयों से।
- If the complaint is against a Supreme Court judge, the committee consists of three Supreme Court judges.
यदि शिकायत किसी सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश के खिलाफ हो, तो समिति में तीन सर्वोच्च न्यायालय के न्यायाधीश होते हैं।

Current Issue: Justice Yashwant Varma Under Scrutiny

वर्तमान मुद्दा: न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा की जांच

- A fire broke out at the residence of Justice Yashwant Varma on March 14.
14 मार्च को न्यायमूर्ति यशवंत वर्मा के निवास पर आग लग गई।
- Fire-control personnel discovered huge piles of cash burnt inside the storeroom.
दमकल कर्मियों ने स्टोररूम में जली हुई बड़ी मात्रा में नकदी बरामद की।
- The Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court conducted a preliminary inquiry and recommended a deeper probe.
दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश ने प्रारंभिक जांच की और गहन जांच की सिफारिश की।



- The **CJI formed a three-member committee** consisting of:
CJI ने तीन सदस्यीय समिति का गठन किया, जिसमें शामिल हैं:
 - The **Chief Justice of Punjab and Haryana High Court.**
पंजाब और हरियाणा उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश।
 - The **Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.**
हिमाचल प्रदेश उच्च न्यायालय के मुख्य न्यायाधीश।
 - A **judge of Karnataka High Court.**
कर्नाटक उच्च न्यायालय के एक न्यायाधीश।
- **Justice Varma denied** that any cash was placed by him or his family.
न्यायमूर्ति वर्मा ने इनकार किया कि कोई नकदी उनके या उनके परिवार द्वारा रखी गई थी।
- **Judicial work has been withdrawn**, and he has been **transferred to the Allahabad High Court.**
उनसे न्यायिक कार्य वापस ले लिया गया, और उन्हें इलाहाबाद उच्च न्यायालय में स्थानांतरित कर दिया गया।

Consequences of Judicial Misconduct

न्यायिक कदाचार के परिणाम

- If **misconduct is serious**, the judge is **asked to resign.**
यदि कदाचार गंभीर होता है, तो न्यायाधीश को त्यागपत्र देने के लिए कहा जाता है।
- If the judge refuses to resign, the **President and Prime Minister** are informed to initiate **removal proceedings in Parliament.**
यदि न्यायाधीश त्यागपत्र देने से इनकार करता है, तो राष्ट्रपति और प्रधानमंत्री को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे संसद में हटाने की प्रक्रिया शुरू करें।
- **No judge has faced criminal punishment** despite being found guilty of misconduct.
अब तक किसी न्यायाधीश को आपराधिक दंड नहीं मिला, भले ही उसे कदाचार का दोषी पाया गया हो।

Reforms Required

आवश्यक सुधार

- The **in-house inquiry details are kept confidential**, which should be changed for **transparency.**
इन-हाउस जांच का विवरण गोपनीय रखा जाता है, जिसे पारदर्शिता के लिए बदला जाना चाहिए।
- A **permanent and autonomous body** like the **Judicial Conduct Investigations Office (U.K.)** should be established in India.
भारत में न्यायिक आचरण जांच कार्यालय (U.K.) की तरह एक स्थायी और स्वायत्त संस्था बनाई जानी चाहिए।
- **Collegium system lacks transparency.** A **broad-based NJAC** with multiple stakeholders should be reconsidered.



कोलेजियम प्रणाली पारदर्शिता की कमी से ग्रस्त है। विस्तृत NJAC जिसमें विभिन्न हितधारक शामिल हों, इसे पुनः विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

- The **CJI and senior judges** should have a **veto power** to ensure judicial independence. CJI और वरिष्ठ न्यायाधीशों को वीटो शक्ति दी जानी चाहिए ताकि न्यायपालिका की स्वतंत्रता बनी रहे।

What is India's approach to citizens on death row abroad?

What happens when an Indian national gets convicted abroad? Has the Indian government been able to successfully intervene and commute the death sentences of some nationals?

GS Paper II

Sambavi Parthasarathy

The story so far:

In March 3, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed that the execution of Shahzadi Khan, an Indian national sentenced to death in the UAE for the alleged murder of an infant, was already carried out. The Ministry's confirmation came as a response to a petition filed by her father Shabbir Khan. In less than a week, the Ministry confirmed that two more Indian nationals, convicted in separate cases, were also executed in the UAE.

How many are on death row abroad?

As per the data disclosed by the MEA in Rajya Sabha on March 20, a total of 49 Indians are currently on death row. The number of Indians awarded death sentences by foreign courts is the highest

in the UAE with 25 Indian nationals awaiting their sentences, followed by 11 in Saudi Arabia.

What has been India's response?

The MEA, in its reply to the Rajya Sabha, mentioned that Indian Missions abroad provide all possible assistance to Indian citizens sentenced by foreign courts.

Explaining the MEA's approach to such cases, Talmiz Ahmad, India's former Ambassador to Oman, the UAE, and Saudi Arabia, said, "There are three processes. First is the arrest and the indictment by the police authorities. Second is the prolonged judicial process. There is a third element – pardon by the ruler or the head of the state. When you say someone is on death row, it means the first and second processes have been completed. The judicial process has been completed and the judge has pronounced that sentence. After that, the only thing

that is available to the embassy or the person concerned is to appeal to the ruler." The appeal for pardon is made by a family member of the accused and if the family is located in India, they are guided to submit the petition. The Indian embassy then forwards the petition to the foreign office requesting that it be brought to the ruler's attention.

In many Gulf countries, sentences can also be commuted in exchange for blood money. Blood money refers to the compensation paid to the victim's family as an alternative for retribution. But, it has to be accepted by both the state and the aggrieved family. In some cases, the state may refuse to commute the sentence in exchange for blood money based on the nature of the crime.

Can the embassy do more?

Death sentences are given in very exceptional cases such as murder, rape

and treason. In countries which have authoritarian systems with nearly non-transparent judicial processes such as Saudi Arabia, the Indian embassy is not informed about the arrest or judicial processes or the pronouncement of the death sentence. The Embassy receives a formal note about the details of the Indian national only after the execution. The embassy's role is further limited when the accused confesses to the crime – circumstances of which often remain unknown. On the other hand, in countries with relatively open judicial systems, the embassy can nominate a lawyer. Whenever required, it also uses welfare funds to provide legal services to those who need it.

Has India intervened successfully in the past?

The government has successfully intervened in several cases. In February last year, eight Indian navy veterans who were sentenced to death by the Qatari government were released following the Indian government's diplomatic efforts and appeals at a higher court. Gurdip Singh, an Indian national arrested on charges of drug trafficking in Indonesia, was sentenced to death in 2005 by the Tangerang court. Singh's appeal was turned down by the High Court of Banten and later the Supreme Court. However, he was spared due to the Indian government's intervention.

India's Approach to Citizens on Death Row Abroad

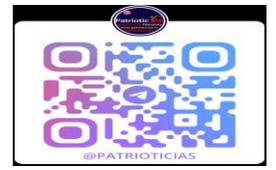
विदेशों में मौत की सजा पाए भारतीय नागरिकों के प्रति भारत का दृष्टिकोण

On March 3, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed the execution of Shahzadi Khan, an Indian national sentenced to death in the UAE for the alleged murder of an infant.

3 मार्च को विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) ने पुष्टि की कि शहजादी खान, जो संयुक्त अरब अमीरात (UAE) में एक शिशु की हत्या के आरोप में मौत की सजा दी गई थी, का निर्वहन कर दिया गया।

- Within a **week**, the **MEA** confirmed **two more executions** of Indian nationals in the **UAE**.

एक सप्ताह के भीतर, MEA ने UAE में दो और भारतीय नागरिकों के फांसी की पुष्टि की।



How many are on death row abroad?

विदेशों में मौत की सजा पाने वाले कितने भारतीय हैं?

- As per MEA data disclosed in Rajya Sabha on March 20, 49 Indians are currently on death row abroad.
20 मार्च को राज्यसभा में MEA द्वारा जारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार, 49 भारतीय वर्तमान में मौत की सजा पर हैं।
- The highest number of death sentences for Indian nationals is in the UAE (25 cases), followed by Saudi Arabia (11 cases).
भारतीय नागरिकों को सबसे अधिक मौत की सजा UAE (25 मामले) में मिली है, इसके बाद सऊदी अरब (11 मामले) का स्थान है।

India's Response

भारत की प्रतिक्रिया

- The MEA stated in Rajya Sabha that Indian Missions abroad provide all possible assistance to Indian citizens sentenced by foreign courts.
MEA ने राज्यसभा में कहा कि विदेशों में स्थित भारतीय मिशन दोषी भारतीय नागरिकों को हरसंभव सहायता प्रदान करते हैं।
- According to Talmiz Ahmad, former Indian Ambassador to Oman, UAE, and Saudi Arabia, there are three main processes:
पूर्व भारतीय राजदूत तलमिज़ अहमद (ओमान, UAE और सऊदी अरब) के अनुसार तीन मुख्य प्रक्रियाएँ होती हैं:
 - Arrest and indictment by police.
पुलिस द्वारा गिरफ्तारी और आरोप पत्र दायर किया जाना।
 - Prolonged judicial process.
लंबी न्यायिक प्रक्रिया।
 - Pardon by the ruler or head of the state.
शासक या राज्य प्रमुख द्वारा क्षमादान।
- After judicial process completion, the only option is to appeal to the ruler for pardon.
न्यायिक प्रक्रिया पूरी होने के बाद, एकमात्र विकल्प शासक से क्षमादान के लिए अपील करना होता है।
- The appeal for pardon is made by a family member, assisted by the Indian embassy, which forwards it to the foreign office.
क्षमादान के लिए अपील परिवार का सदस्य करता है, जिसे भारतीय दूतावास सहायता प्रदान करता है और फिर इसे विदेशी कार्यालय को भेजता है।
- In many Gulf countries, sentences can be commuted in exchange for blood money (compensation paid to the victim's family).



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कई खाड़ी देशों में, खून बहा (Blood Money) के बदले सजा माफ की जा सकती है (पीड़ित के परिवार को क्षतिपूर्ति के रूप में)।

- However, both the state and the victim's family must accept the blood money agreement.

हालांकि, राज्य और पीड़ित परिवार दोनों को इस समझौते को स्वीकार करना आवश्यक होता है।

Can the Embassy Do More?

क्या दूतावास अधिक कर सकता है?

- Death sentences are given in exceptional cases like murder, rape, and treason. मौत की सजा केवल असाधारण मामलों जैसे हत्या, बलात्कार और देशद्रोह में दी जाती है।
- In authoritarian states like Saudi Arabia, the Indian embassy is not informed about arrests, judicial proceedings, or death sentences until after execution. सऊदी अरब जैसे अधिनायकवादी राज्यों में, भारतीय दूतावास को गिरफ्तारी, न्यायिक प्रक्रिया या मौत की सजा के बारे में फांसी के बाद ही सूचना मिलती है।
- In more transparent judicial systems, the embassy can nominate a lawyer and provide legal aid using welfare funds. अधिक पारदर्शी न्यायिक प्रणाली वाले देशों में, दूतावास एक वकील नियुक्त कर सकता है और कल्याण कोष से कानूनी सहायता प्रदान कर सकता है।

Has India Intervened Successfully in the Past?

क्या भारत ने पहले सफलतापूर्वक हस्तक्षेप किया है?

- In February 2023, eight Indian Navy veterans sentenced to death in Qatar were released after India's diplomatic efforts and appeals in higher courts. फरवरी 2023 में, कतर में मौत की सजा पाए आठ भारतीय नौसेना के पूर्व सैनिकों को भारत की राजनयिक कोशिशों और उच्च न्यायालय में अपीलों के बाद रिहा कर दिया गया।
- Gurdip Singh, an Indian national arrested in Indonesia for drug trafficking, was sentenced to death in 2005. गुरदीप सिंह, इंडोनेशिया में मादक पदार्थ तस्करी के आरोप में 2005 में मौत की सजा सुनाई गई थी।
- His appeal was rejected by the High Court and Supreme Court, but India's intervention helped spare his life. उनकी अपील उच्च न्यायालय और सर्वोच्च न्यायालय द्वारा खारिज कर दी गई, लेकिन भारत के हस्तक्षेप से उनकी जान बच गई।



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TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Economy, S&T, Environment, DM, IS)

- 1. India Slaps Samsung with \$601 Million Tax Demand**
भारत ने सैमसंग पर \$601 मिलियन का कर दावा लगाया
- 2. Centre Drops Import Duty on Goods for EV, Phone Batteries; Lok Sabha Passes Finance Bill**
केंद्र ने EV, फोन बैटरियों के लिए सामान पर आयात शुल्क हटाया;
लोकसभा ने वित्त विधेयक पारित किया
- 3. Don't Dump Kuki Extremists in Naga Areas: NSCN(I-M)**
नगा क्षेत्रों में कुकी उग्रवादियों को न छोड़ा जाए: NSCN(I-M)
- 4. India Losing 3% of GDP to Road Accidents: Nitin Gadkari**
सड़क दुर्घटनाओं से भारत को 3% GDP का नुकसान: नितिन गडकरी
- 5. Search for Universe's First Water Could Reset Timeline of Life's Origins**
ब्रह्मांड के पहले पानी की खोज जीवन की उत्पत्ति की समयरेखा बदल सकती है
- 6. Simulating Gravity for Space Workouts**
अंतरिक्ष वर्कआउट के लिए गुरुत्वाकर्षण का सिमुलेशन
- 7. Are U.S. Research Institutions Making Mice Transgender?**
क्या अमेरिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान चूहों को ट्रांसजेंडर बना रहे हैं?
- 8. Easing FPI Threshold Can Induce Capital Inflow, Say Experts**
एफपीआई सीमा में राहत से पूंजी प्रवाह को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है,
विशेषज्ञों की राय
- 9. BHIM 3.0 Launched with Option to Track Shared Expenses**

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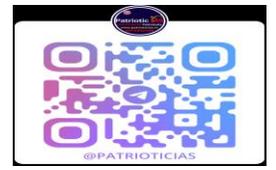
BHIM 3.0 साझा खर्चों को ट्रैक करने के विकल्प के साथ लॉन्च किया गया

10. Social Protection Coverage Doubled to 48.8% in 2024

2024 में सामाजिक सुरक्षा कवरेज दोगुना होकर 48.8% हुआ

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India slaps Samsung with tax demand of \$601 million

GS Paper III:

Taxation

NEW DELHI

Customs authorities have ordered consumer electronics major Samsung and its executives to pay \$601 million (\$1 is equal to ₹85.72 at current rates) in back taxes and penalties for dodging tariffs on import of key telecoms equipment, a government order showed.

The demand represents a substantial chunk of last year's net profit of \$955 million for Samsung in India., where it is one of the largest players in the consumer electronics and smartphones market. It can be challenged in a tax tribunal or the courts. The company, which also imports telecoms equipment through its network division, received a warning in 2023 for misclassifying imports to evade tariffs of 10% or 20% on a critical transmission component used in mobile towers. It imported and sold them to Reliance Jio.

Samsung pushed India's tax authority to drop the scrutiny, saying the component did not attract tariffs and officials had known its classification practice for years.

But customs authorities disagreed in a confidential January 8 order that is not public but was reviewed by Reuters. Samsung "violated" Indian laws and "knowingly and intentionally presented false documents before the customs authority for clearance", Sonal Bajaj, a commissioner of customs, said in the order.

Samsung was ordered to pay \$520 million, consisting of unpaid taxes and a penalty of 100%. Seven India executives face fines of \$81 million, the order showed.

India Slaps Samsung with \$601 Million Tax Demand भारत ने सैमसंग पर \$601 मिलियन का कर दावा लगाया

Customs authorities have ordered Samsung and its executives to pay \$601 million in back taxes and penalties for dodging tariffs on the import of key telecom equipment.

सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों ने सैमसंग और उसके अधिकारियों को \$601 मिलियन का बकाया कर और जुर्माना भरने का आदेश दिया, क्योंकि उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण दूरसंचार उपकरणों के आयात पर शुल्क से बचाव किया।

- The current exchange rate is \$1 = ₹85.72.

वर्तमान विनिमय दर \$1 = ₹85.72 है।

- The demand represents a substantial chunk of last year's net profit of \$955 million for Samsung in India, where it is one of the largest players in the consumer electronics and smartphone market.

यह दावा पिछले वर्ष के \$955 मिलियन के शुद्ध लाभ का एक बड़ा हिस्सा है। भारत में सैमसंग उपभोक्ता इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और स्मार्टफोन बाजार में सबसे बड़े खिलाड़ियों में से एक है।

- Samsung can challenge this demand in a tax tribunal or courts.

सैमसंग इस दावे को कराधिकरण या अदालतों में चुनौती दे सकता है।

Why Was Samsung Penalized?

सैमसंग को दंड क्यों दिया गया?

- Samsung imports telecom equipment through its network division and received a warning in 2023 for misclassifying imports to evade tariffs of 10% or 20% on critical transmission components used in mobile towers.

सैमसंग अपने नेटवर्क डिवीजन के माध्यम से दूरसंचार उपकरणों का आयात करता है और 2023 में चेतावनी मिली थी कि उसने आयात को गलत तरीके से वर्गीकृत किया था ताकि मोबाइल टावरों में उपयोग किए जाने वाले महत्वपूर्ण ट्रांसमिशन घटकों पर 10% या 20% शुल्क से बचा जा सके।

- These components were imported and sold to Reliance Jio.

ये घटक आयात किए गए और रिलायंस जियो को बेचे गए।

Samsung's Response

सैमसंग की प्रतिक्रिया

- Samsung urged India's tax authority to drop the scrutiny, arguing that the component did not attract tariffs, and officials had known its classification practice for years.



सैमसंग ने भारत के कर प्राधिकरण से जांच बंद करने का अनुरोध किया, यह कहते हुए कि इस घटक पर कोई शुल्क नहीं लगता और अधिकारियों को इसके वर्गीकरण अभ्यास की वर्षों से जानकारी थी।

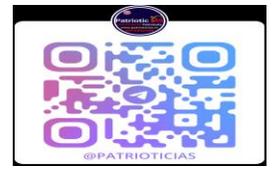
- However, **customs authorities disagreed in a confidential January 8 order**, stating that **Samsung violated Indian laws and knowingly and intentionally presented false documents** before the customs authority for clearance.

हालांकि, सीमा शुल्क अधिकारियों ने 8 जनवरी के एक गोपनीय आदेश में असहमति जताई और कहा कि सैमसंग ने भारतीय कानूनों का उल्लंघन किया और जानबूझकर और इरादतन झूठे दस्तावेज प्रस्तुत किए।

Financial Implications and Fines

वित्तीय प्रभाव और जुर्माना

- Samsung was ordered to **pay \$520 million**, consisting of **unpaid taxes and a 100% penalty**.
सैमसंग को **\$520 मिलियन का भुगतान करने का आदेश दिया गया**, जिसमें **बकाया कर और 100% जुर्माना** शामिल है।
- **Seven Indian executives face fines of \$81 million**, as per the order.
आदेश के अनुसार, **सात भारतीय अधिकारियों पर \$81 मिलियन का जुर्माना लगाया गया है**।



Don't dump Kuki extremists in Naga areas: NSCN(I-M)

GS Paper III: Internal Security

GUWAHATI

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim or the NSCN (Isak-Muivah) has asked the Border Security Force (BSF) not to use Naga-inhabited areas as a dumping ground for Kuki extremists and immigrants.

The NSCN(I-M) also said the Central paramilitary force should stop doing what the Manipur police and the Assam Rifles used to do in the recent past.

The NSCN(I-M) said it was not long ago when its members exposed the "un-ethical nexus" of the Manipur police with Kuki extremists. It claimed that the police were found providing materials to the Kuki extremists stationed at the Molhang Kuki village in the

Naga-dominated Ukhrul district.

The outfit further said various units of the Assam Rifles were found transporting Kuki extremists in the Kamjong district bordering Myanmar and other places of Manipur. "This time, the BSF were found transporting illegal immigrants from Churachandpur district and dropping them in Ukhrul district's Litatan village area. The BSF has also been guarding the Kuki militants' camp at Molhang Kuki village," it said. "This entails a cooperative relationship between the BSF and the Kuki militants," the outfit said.

The BSF denied aiding or transporting Kuki or any other ethnicity-based extremist group in Manipur or elsewhere in the northeast.

Don't Dump Kuki Extremists in Naga Areas: NSCN(I-M)

नगा क्षेत्रों में कुकी उग्रवादियों

को न छोड़ा जाए: NSCN(I-M)

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN-I-M) has asked the Border Security Force (BSF) not to use Naga-inhabited areas as a dumping ground for Kuki extremists and immigrants.

नेशनल सोशलिस्ट काउंसिल ऑफ नागालिम (NSCN-I-M) ने सीमा

सुरक्षा बल (BSF) से अनुरोध किया

कि नगा-बहुल क्षेत्रों को कुकी

उग्रवादियों और प्रवासियों के लिए

डंपिंग ग्राउंड के रूप में इस्तेमाल न

किया जाए।

• The NSCN(I-M) also said that the BSF should stop activities that were earlier done by the Manipur police and Assam Rifles.

NSCN(I-M) ने यह भी कहा कि BSF को वे

गतिविधियाँ बंद करनी चाहिए, जो पहले

मणिपुर पुलिस और असम राइफल्स द्वारा की जाती थीं।

Allegations Against Manipur Police

and Assam Rifles

मणिपुर पुलिस और असम राइफल्स पर आरोप



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- The NSCN(I-M) claimed that its members had exposed an unethical nexus between Manipur police and Kuki extremists.
NSCN(I-M) ने दावा किया कि उसके सदस्यों ने मणिपुर पुलिस और कुकी उग्रवादियों के बीच अनैतिक गठजोड़ का पर्दाफाश किया था।
- The police were allegedly providing materials to Kuki extremists stationed at Molhang Kuki village in Naga-dominated Ukhruul district.
पुलिस पर आरोप है कि वे कुकी उग्रवादियों को सामग्री प्रदान कर रही थी, जो नगा-बहुल उखरुल जिले के मोलहांग कुकी गांव में तैनात थे।
- The NSCN(I-M) further alleged that Assam Rifles were found transporting Kuki extremists in Kamjong district (bordering Myanmar) and other parts of Manipur.
NSCN(I-M) ने आगे आरोप लगाया कि असम राइफल्स ने कुकी उग्रवादियों को म्यांमार सीमा से सटे कामजोंग जिले और मणिपुर के अन्य हिस्सों में पहुँचाया।

Allegations Against BSF

BSF पर आरोप

- The BSF was accused of transporting illegal immigrants from Churachandpur district and dropping them in Ukhruul district's Litan village area.
BSF पर आरोप लगाया गया कि उन्होंने चुराचांदपुर जिले से अवैध प्रवासियों को लाकर उखरुल जिले के लितान गांव में छोड़ा।
- The BSF was also accused of guarding Kuki militants' camp at Molhang Kuki village.
BSF पर मोलहांग कुकी गांव में कुकी उग्रवादियों के शिविर की सुरक्षा करने का भी आरोप लगाया गया।
- The NSCN(I-M) claimed that this implied a cooperative relationship between the BSF and Kuki militants.
NSCN(I-M) ने दावा किया कि यह BSF और कुकी उग्रवादियों के बीच सहयोगी संबंधों को दर्शाता है।

BSF's Response

BSF की प्रतिक्रिया

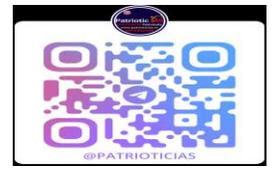
- The BSF denied aiding or transporting Kuki extremists or any other ethnicity-based extremist group in Manipur or elsewhere in the northeast.
BSF ने कुकी उग्रवादियों या किसी अन्य जातीय उग्रवादी समूह की सहायता या परिवहन करने से इनकार किया, चाहे वह मणिपुर में हो या पूर्वोत्तर के किसी अन्य स्थान पर।



TELEGRAM CHANNEL: <https://t.me/patrioticIAS>

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: <https://www.youtube.com/@PatrioticIAS>

CONTACT: 9971932488



India losing 3% of GDP to road accidents, says Nitin Gadkari

GS Paper III

Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

India is losing 3% of its GDP due to around five lakh road accidents annually in the country, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

The Minister for Road, Transport and Highways made the remarks while addressing AMCHAM's "Technology interventions for road safety: U.S.-India Partnership" in the national capital.

The most important problem for the country is road accidents, Mr. Gadkari said, noting that every year India registers 4,80,000 accidents, which lead to 1,88,000 deaths of people aged between 18 and 45.

He raised concern that 10,000 deaths are of children aged below 18. The Minister cited poorly detailed project reports as one of the key reasons for accidents.

Mr. Gadkari further said that to promote helping of accident victims, the government has decided to provide an award of ₹25,000.

India Losing 3% of GDP to Road Accidents: Nitin Gadkari

सड़क दुर्घटनाओं से भारत को 3% GDP का नुकसान: नितिन गडकरी

India loses 3% of its GDP due to approximately five lakh road accidents annually, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Tuesday.

मंगलवार को केंद्रीय मंत्री नितिन गडकरी ने कहा कि भारत को हर साल लगभग पांच लाख सड़क दुर्घटनाओं के कारण अपनी GDP का 3% नुकसान होता है।

• The Minister for Road, Transport and Highways made these remarks at AMCHAM's event titled "Technology Interventions for Road Safety: U.S.-India Partnership" in New Delhi.

सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्री ने नई दिल्ली में AMCHAM के कार्यक्रम "Technology Interventions for Road Safety: U.S.-India Partnership" में यह टिप्पणी की।

Road Accidents and Fatalities

सड़क दुर्घटनाएं और मौतें

• India records 4,80,000 road accidents annually, leading to 1,88,000 deaths among people aged 18 to 45 years.

भारत में हर साल 4,80,000 सड़क दुर्घटनाएं होती हैं, जिनमें 18 से 45 वर्ष की आयु के 1,88,000

लोगों की मृत्यु होती है।

• 10,000 deaths occur among children below 18 years.

18 वर्ष से कम उम्र के बच्चों में 10,000 मौतें होती हैं।

• The Minister cited poorly detailed project reports as a key reason for the high number of accidents.

मंत्री ने खराब रूप से तैयार की गई परियोजना रिपोर्टों को दुर्घटनाओं का एक प्रमुख कारण बताया।

Government's Initiative for Accident Victims

दुर्घटना पीड़ितों के लिए सरकार की पहल

Address : 3rd Floor, KV Tower, Padleyganj Road, Gorakhpur

Email Id : info@patrioticias.in

Contact Number : 9971932488

Website : patrioticias.in



- To encourage helping accident victims, the government has announced a ₹25,000 reward.

दुर्घटना पीड़ितों की सहायता को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए, सरकार ने ₹25,000 इनाम की घोषणा की है।

Search for universe's first water could reset timeline of life's origins

The findings of new research validate previous studies that have shown that at least some of the earth's water was delivered by comets early in the planet's history. They also confirm that water molecules remain unchanged from their interstellar origins as they reach planets elsewhere in the universe

GS Paper III: S&T

Prakash Chandra

Astronomers may be closer to solving one of the most intriguing mysteries in science: how did water originate in the universe?

A study published in the journal *Nature Astronomy* on March 3 suggested that the universe's oldest stars became fountains of water as their nuclear fires were extinguished in massive explosions called supernovae.

If this finding is borne out in further research, astronomers will have to revise current theories to factor in potentially life-bearing planets being born billions of years earlier than previously thought.

The first stars

Water is the third most abundant molecule in the universe, after hydrogen and carbon monoxide, but its origins have remained obscure.

Billions of years ago, all matter and energy existed as an extremely small fleck in the void. This incredibly dense blob exploded some 13.8 billion years ago with a Big Bang to create the known universe.

The first stars were born just a few hundred million years after the Big Bang, at a time when all visible matter comprised primordial hydrogen and helium atoms. The nuclear furnaces at the cores of these early stars were powered by hydrogen, and as they shone, they heated up the surrounding intergalactic gas and dust. Hundreds of millions of years later, when the stars ran out of hydrogen to burn, they blew up as supernovae.

But by then their heat had ionised the interstellar medium around them, which set the stage for the formation of new stars and triggered a cycle of star births in perpetuity.

The third population

The longevity of a star depends on its mass. More massive stars die faster as more mass means more heat, and the hotter a star becomes, the faster its nuclear fuel is exhausted. Temperatures of millions of degrees and high densities inside a star force four hydrogen atoms to fuse into a helium atom, releasing enormous amounts of energy.

Scientists have calculated that 0.7% of the mass is converted into energy, summed up by Einstein's mass-energy equation.

Based on their age and metallicity (i.e., the proportion of any element other than hydrogen and helium), astronomers divide stars into three groups. Population I stars, like the sun, are the youngest and are the most metal-rich, while population



NASA's Hubble Space Telescope unveiled in stunning detail this small section of the expanding remains of a massive star that exploded about 8,000 years ago, now called the Veil Nebula, February 17, 2024. NASA, ESA, AND THE HUBBLE HERITAGE TEAM (STSC/AURA)

II stars are older and are less metallic.

The universe's oldest stars form population III: massive stars composed completely of hydrogen and helium. These forerunners, the researchers of the new study have surmised, were the stellar nurseries where water must have first appeared in the cosmos.

The right conditions

Astronomer D.H. Whalen of the University of Portsmouth, England, who led the new study, said his team ran 3D simulations of population III supernovae looking for the signatures of water. They found that the conditions required to create water existed at around the same time when those first supernovae lit up the cosmos: sometime between 50 million and 1 billion years after the Big Bang. Gigantic stars, hundreds of times more massive than our sun and with short lifespans, provided these conditions when they exploded, leaving behind hydrogen, oxygen, and other elements as their stellar remnants.

According to Whalen, the oxygen produced in these supernovae combined with hydrogen to create water, which is crucial for forming the elements necessary for life (as we know it).

The earliest stars could not have possibly engendered water in the universe before they became supernovae, however.

"The supernovae have to expel oxygen, which only forms during late stages of nuclear burning in massive stars that are



Astronomers had an idea that metal-poor stars generated oxygen which would combine with hydrogen to produce water. The current paper shows that generation of water in early galaxies was likely more efficient destined to explode."

Water in an infant universe

It may be a while before astronomers redraw their theories on the origins of water in the cosmos. "The water formation happens after the supernovae throw out most of the stellar material," K.C. Sarkar, an associate professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru, said in an email interview.

"Astronomers already had an idea that the massive, metal-poor stars generated a lot of oxygen and that this oxygen would later combine with hydrogen to produce water in the universe. The current paper shows that the generation of water in early galaxies could be more efficient than [in] today's galaxies."

Scientists believed for decades that only traces of water were present in the early cosmos and that it became more common when newer, bigger stars exploded, yielding more of the heavier elements to an evolving universe. But the latest findings indicate that the first supernovae themselves produced enough

water to drench the infant universe.

This would mean planets, a crucial refuge for water molecules, could have formed even before the first galaxies were born, and that there could have been enough water and other elements in the interstellar molecular clouds to kickstart life. If so, this pushes the timeline for potential life to have arisen in the universe way back.

Remain unchanged

There are concerns that the model used by the University of Portsmouth researchers was based on the use of indirect methods, like numerical experiments, to study population III stars. These stars are so distant that it is nearly impossible to 'see' them even with the most sophisticated telescopes.

However, Whalen said this challenge did not affect the accuracy of the study. "The important thing is to capture how ionising UV radiation from the stars heats and drives away ambient gas over their lifetimes. We have those from stellar atmosphere and evolution models that are well established in the field."

The findings validate previous research that has shown that at least some of the earth's water was delivered by comets early in the planet's history. They also confirm that water molecules remain unchanged from their interstellar origins as they reach planets elsewhere in the universe.

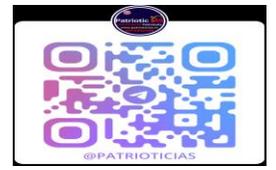
(Prakash Chandra is a science writer. prakashisat@gmail.com)

THE GIST

Water is the third most abundant molecule in the universe, after hydrogen and carbon monoxide, but its origins are obscure

Researchers found that the conditions required for water existed around the time when the first supernovae lit up the cosmos. Gigantic stars exploded, leaving behind hydrogen, oxygen, and other elements. The 'oxygen combined with hydrogen to create water'

The latest findings indicate that the first supernovae produced enough water to drench the infant universe. This means planets could have formed before the first galaxies, and that there was enough water to kickstart life. This would push the timeline for potential life way back



Search for Universe's First Water Could Reset Timeline of Life's Origins

ब्रह्मांड के पहले पानी की खोज जीवन की उत्पत्ति की समयरेखा बदल सकती है

New research findings validate previous studies, showing that at least some of Earth's water was delivered by comets in the planet's early history.

नए शोध निष्कर्ष पहले के अध्ययनों की पुष्टि करते हैं, जो दिखाते हैं कि पृथ्वी के कुछ पानी की आपूर्ति धूमकेतुओं द्वारा इसके शुरुआती इतिहास में की गई थी।

- The study also confirms that **water molecules remain unchanged from their interstellar origins** as they reach planets elsewhere in the universe.
यह अध्ययन यह भी पुष्टि करता है कि जल अणु अपने अंतरतारकीय मूल से अपरिवर्तित रहते हैं, जब वे ब्रह्मांड के अन्य ग्रहों तक पहुंचते हैं।

How Did Water Originate in the Universe?

ब्रह्मांड में पानी की उत्पत्ति कैसे हुई?

- A study published in **Nature Astronomy** on **March 3** suggests that the universe's **oldest stars** produced **water** as they underwent **supernova explosions**.
3 मार्च को नेचर एस्ट्रोनॉमी में प्रकाशित एक अध्ययन बताता है कि ब्रह्मांड के सबसे पुराने तारे जब सुपरनोवा विस्फोटों से गुजरे, तो उन्होंने पानी उत्पन्न किया।
- If validated, this research could **revise theories on life-bearing planets**, indicating that they **formed billions of years earlier** than previously thought.
यदि यह शोध प्रमाणित होता है, तो यह जीवन-सक्षम ग्रहों पर सिद्धांतों को संशोधित कर सकता है, जिससे संकेत मिलता है कि वे पहले से सोचे गए समय से अरबों वर्ष पहले बने थे।

The First Stars and Water Formation

पहले तारे और पानी का निर्माण

- **Water is the third most abundant molecule** in the universe, after **hydrogen and carbon monoxide**, but its origins remained unknown.
जल ब्रह्मांड में तीसरा सबसे अधिक पाया जाने वाला अणु है, हाइड्रोजन और कार्बन मोनोऑक्साइड के बाद, लेकिन इसकी उत्पत्ति अज्ञात बनी हुई थी।
- Around **13.8 billion years ago**, the **Big Bang** led to the creation of the universe.
लगभग 13.8 अरब वर्ष पहले, बिग बैंग के कारण ब्रह्मांड का निर्माण हुआ।



- The **first stars** were born a few hundred million years after the **Big Bang**, consisting mostly of **hydrogen and helium**.
पहले तारे बिग बैंग के कुछ सौ मिलियन वर्ष बाद बने, जो मुख्य रूप से हाइड्रोजन और हीलियम से बने थे।
- These **early stars heated intergalactic gas and dust**, and when they **ran out of hydrogen**, they exploded as **supernovae**, enriching space with heavier elements.
इन प्रारंभिक तारों ने अंतरग्रहीय गैस और धूल को गर्म किया, और जब उनका हाइड्रोजन खत्म हो गया, तो वे सुपरनोवा के रूप में विस्फोट हुए, जिससे अंतरिक्ष में भारी तत्व समृद्ध हुए।

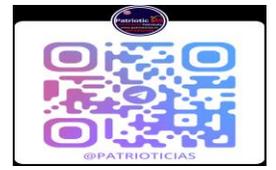
The Third Population of Stars and Water Formation

तीसरी पीढ़ी के तारे और पानी का निर्माण

- A star's **lifespan depends on its mass**—massive stars **burn fuel faster and die sooner**.
एक तारे की आयु उसके द्रव्यमान पर निर्भर करती है—बड़े द्रव्यमान वाले तारे ईंधन जल्दी जलाते हैं और शीघ्र समाप्त हो जाते हैं।
- The **fusion process inside stars converts hydrogen into helium**, releasing enormous energy as per **Einstein's mass-energy equation**.
तारों के अंदर संलयन प्रक्रिया हाइड्रोजन को हीलियम में परिवर्तित करती है, और यह आइंस्टीन के द्रव्यमान-ऊर्जा समीकरण के अनुसार विशाल ऊर्जा मुक्त करता है।
- Based on **metallicity (elements heavier than hydrogen & helium)**, astronomers classify stars into **three populations**:
धात्विकता (हाइड्रोजन और हीलियम से भारी तत्वों की उपस्थिति) के आधार पर, खगोलविद तारों को तीन श्रेणियों में वर्गीकृत करते हैं:
 - **Population I stars (like the Sun) – Youngest and most metal-rich.**
Population I तारे (जैसे सूर्य) – सबसे युवा और धात्विकता में सबसे समृद्ध।
 - **Population II stars – Older with lower metallicity.**
Population II तारे – पुराने और कम धात्विकता वाले।
 - **Population III stars – The first stars, composed purely of hydrogen and helium.**
Population III तारे – पहले तारे, जो पूरी तरह से हाइड्रोजन और हीलियम से बने थे।
- According to the study, **Population III stars were the stellar nurseries where water first appeared in the cosmos**.
अध्ययन के अनुसार, Population III तारे वे तारकीय नर्सरियां थीं, जहां ब्रह्मांड में सबसे पहले पानी उत्पन्न हुआ।

Search for Universe's First Water Could Reset Timeline of Life's Origins

ब्रह्मांड के पहले पानी की खोज जीवन की उत्पत्ति की समयरेखा बदल सकती है



- **New research findings validate previous studies**, showing that at least **some of Earth's water was delivered by comets** in the planet's early history.
नए शोध निष्कर्ष पहले के अध्ययनों की पुष्टि करते हैं, जो दिखाते हैं कि पृथ्वी के कुछ पानी की आपूर्ति धूमकेतुओं द्वारा इसके शुरुआती इतिहास में की गई थी।
- The study also confirms that **water molecules remain unchanged from their interstellar origins** as they reach planets elsewhere in the universe.
यह अध्ययन यह भी पुष्टि करता है कि **जल अणु अपने अंतरतारकीय मूल से अपरिवर्तित रहते हैं**, जब वे ब्रह्मांड के अन्य ग्रहों तक पहुंचते हैं।

How Did Water Originate in the Universe?

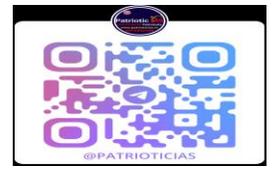
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The Right Conditions for Water Formation

पानी के निर्माण के सही परिस्थितियाँ

- Astronomer D.H. Whalen (University of Portsmouth, England) led the study and ran 3D simulations of Population III supernovae.
खगोलशास्त्री डी.एच. व्हेलन (पोर्ट्समाउथ विश्वविद्यालय, इंग्लैंड) ने अध्ययन का नेतृत्व किया और Population III सुपरनोवा के 3D सिमुलेशन चलाए।
- They found that water-forming conditions existed between 50 million to 1 billion years after the Big Bang.
उन्होंने पाया कि बिग बैंग के 50 मिलियन से 1 बिलियन वर्ष बाद पानी बनने की परिस्थितियाँ मौजूद थीं।



- **Gigantic stars** (hundreds of times bigger than the Sun) provided these conditions when they exploded, leaving behind **hydrogen, oxygen, and other elements.**

विशाल तारे (सूर्य से सैकड़ों गुना बड़े) जब फटे, तो उन्होंने हाइड्रोजन, ऑक्सीजन और अन्य तत्वों को छोड़ा।

Simulating gravity for space workouts

GS Paper III: S&T



Q. Does walking in space lead to weight loss?
Are you trying to lose weight?
Because in

space you are already weightless. However, it is interesting to think about how astronauts can exercise in space, which they need to do to keep from losing muscle mass.

Work is defined by a force displacing an object by some distance. When you lift a 5-kg dumbbell on the earth, you work to move it through the air. The amount of work depends on the amount of force exerted in this activity.

On the ground, you work to overcome the downward force the dumbbell exerts on your hand, called its weight, and to move the dumbbell up. If you're onboard the International Space Station (ISS) in low-earth orbit, both components almost completely vanish, and you do very little work to move the dumbbell up and down.

Similarly, unlike walking on the earth, where you work to overcome your own weight and friction against the air and the ground, in space the former is very small and the latter is zero. (In low-earth orbit, astronauts



Astronaut Sunita Williams uses the treadmill onboard the ISS in 2012. The harness is visible reaching from the treadmill's base to a ring on her hip. NASA

experience microgravity, not zero gravity.)

To exercise onboard the ISS, astronauts use a special weight-lifting machine called the Advanced Resistive Exercise Device. An astronaut uses their hands and shoulders to push against resistance provided by air-filled pistons, which can simulate a weight of up to 270 kg. Similarly, the ISS has a treadmill where astronauts can strap themselves down using a harness: the tighter it is, the closer the force it exerts will be to gravity.

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with the subject 'Daily page'

सकें।

Work and Force in Space अंतरिक्ष में कार्य और बल

- **Work** is defined as a **force displacing an object over a distance.**
कार्य को एक बल द्वारा वस्तु को एक दूरी तक विस्थापित करने के रूप में परिभाषित किया जाता है।

Simulating Gravity for Space Workouts

अंतरिक्ष वर्कआउट के लिए
गुरुत्वाकर्षण का सिमुलेशन

Q. Does walking in space lead to weight loss?

प्र. क्या अंतरिक्ष में चलने से वजन कम होता है?

- In **space**, you are already **weightless**, so **walking does not contribute to weight loss** the same way it does on Earth.

अंतरिक्ष में, आप पहले से ही भारहीन होते हैं, इसलिए चलना वजन घटाने में उसी तरह योगदान नहीं देता जैसे पृथ्वी पर देता है।

- **Astronauts must exercise to prevent muscle loss** due to prolonged exposure to microgravity.

अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों को व्यायाम करना आवश्यक होता है ताकि वे माइक्रोग्रैविटी के लंबे समय तक संपर्क में रहने से मांसपेशियों की हानि को रोक



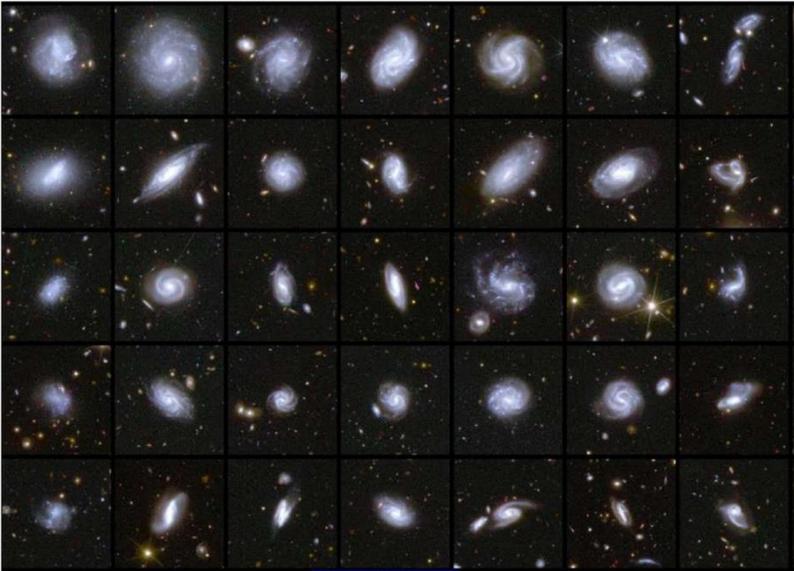
- On Earth, lifting a 5-kg dumbbell requires work to move it against gravity.
पृथ्वी पर, 5 किलोग्राम का डंबल उठाने के लिए गुरुत्वाकर्षण के विरुद्ध कार्य करने की आवश्यकता होती है।
- In low-Earth orbit (ISS), both weight and resistance almost disappear, making lifting effortless.
निम्न-पृथ्वी कक्षा (ISS) में, वजन और प्रतिरोध लगभग समाप्त हो जाते हैं, जिससे उठाना बहुत आसान हो जाता है।
- On Earth, walking requires energy to overcome body weight and friction. In space, weight is minimal and friction is zero.
पृथ्वी पर, चलने के लिए शरीर के वजन और घर्षण को पार करने के लिए ऊर्जा की आवश्यकता होती है। अंतरिक्ष में, वजन बहुत कम होता है और घर्षण शून्य होता है।

Exercise Methods on the ISS

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (ISS) पर व्यायाम के तरीके

- Astronauts use an **Advanced Resistive Exercise Device (ARED)**, which simulates weight resistance up to 270 kg using air-filled pistons.
अंतरिक्ष यात्री एडवांस्ड रेसिस्टिव एक्सरसाइज डिवाइस (ARED) का उपयोग करते हैं, जो हवा-भरे पिस्टन के माध्यम से 270 किलोग्राम तक के भार प्रतिरोध का अनुकरण करता है।
- The ISS has a **treadmill** where astronauts strap themselves with a harness to simulate gravity while running.
ISS में एक ट्रेडमिल है जहां अंतरिक्ष यात्री अपने शरीर को एक हार्नेस से बांधकर दौड़ते हैं, ताकि गुरुत्वाकर्षण का अनुकरण किया जा सके।

BIG SHOT



GS Paper III: S&T

This is a collage of galaxies captured by the Euclid observatory and released on March 19. The first column shows galaxies that have a more diffuse appearance. The middle columns showcase face-on spiral galaxies with different shapes and densities of stars. The last columns include interacting galaxies or galaxies with an unusual spiral arm or tidal tail. EUCLID CONSORTIUM/ESA, NASA



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GETTY IMAGES





Are U.S. research institutions making mice transgender?

U.S. President Donald Trump has claimed that millions of dollars are being spent to make mice transgender. Fact checkers in the U.S. reported that it might not have been a misstatement, speculating that Mr. Trump was probably referring to a report from the White Coat Waste Project

GS Paper III

Ramya Kannan

Recently, U.S. President Donald Trump famously misstated that “\$8 million had been spent for making mice transgender.” This was followed by laughter in the House and sneers from Republicans, on cue, and with Mr. Trump doubling down by claiming: “This is real!” However, the internet nearly exploded to correct him – it should have been **transgenic mice**, not mice who have their gender changed.

The etymology of the term

But what does **transgenic** actually mean? The root word **trans** means from “one to another”, and **genetic** is used in relation to genes. **Transgenic** refers to an organism or cell whose genome has been altered by the introduction of one or more foreign DNA sequences from another species by artificial means. Transgenic organisms are generated in the laboratory for research purposes, as per the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Fact checkers in the U.S. reported that it might not have been a misstatement, speculating that Mr. Trump was probably referring to a report from the White Coat Waste Project, a watchdog group opposing government-funded animal research, which had claimed that over \$10 million had been spent on projects involving transgender mice, rats, and monkeys. This report managed to gather moss as it rolled among the conservatives,

prompting the erroneous and quite homophobic charge that precious taxpayer funds were being misused in unnecessary research.

Media reports from the U.S., following Trump’s remarks, stated that the White House responded by sharing a list of National Institutes of Health grants. The press release listed six studies from the database of federally-funded research projects that used mice treated with hormones and researched different aspects of gender-affirming care.

This included studies on mice in the area of hormone therapy and HIV vaccines, reproductive consequences of steroid hormone administration, the impact of testosterone therapy on breast cancer, a study on how gender-affirming hormone therapy affects the microbiome, analysing androgen effects on the reproductive neuroendocrine axis and how hormones influence asthma outcomes.

The money was not spent to make mice transgender.

Uses of transgenic mice

Transgenic animals actually include a variety of species such as fish, poultry, rabbits, pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle, apart from mice. Transgenic mice have been used in genetic studies for a long time now. Linear fragments of DNA can be integrated into the genome in a random fashion. If the gene-modified chromosome enters the germline cells, it can be passed onto the progeny, which

thereby contains permanently-altered genomes and are then said to be transgenic, explains Udayan Guha et al, in a chapter on transgenic mice in cancer research in the *Encyclopedia of Cancer* (Second Edition).

Transgenic mice, in which the gene is depleted or silenced to cause a loss of gene function, are called knockout mice. These mice provide valuable clues about the biological function of a normal gene, says Ursa Lamprecht Tratar in ‘Transgenic Mouse Models in Cancer Research’ published in *Frontiers in Oncology*.

In fact, transgenic mice were used to demonstrate that DNA is the molecule that carries the genetic code and that oncogenes can cause cancer. “Transgenic animals have been generated to understand normal physiological processes such as metabolism and blood cell production. Transgenic animals have been used to model human diseases and to develop new treatments. Transgenic crops have been produced that are resistant to infectious diseases and grow faster,” as per the National Human Genome Research Institute.

Paul P. Liu, senior investigator, Translational and Functional Genomics Branch, at the National Human Genome Research Institute, U.S., says: “with the imminent completion of the human and mouse genome sequence, it will be more feasible to identify the relevant genes underlying many fertility disorders. Already, the mouse has been utilised extensively as a genetic tool for the

dissection of gene function, often providing significant insights into the relationship between gene and disease.”

In a paper published in *ScienceDirect*, ‘Genetic manipulations to study reproduction’, Carolina J. Jorgez et al state “to expand our understanding of fertility disorders in humans, animal models have been providing invaluable insights into reproductive physiology. The mouse has become an important animal model to study reproduction and other processes due to its physiological, anatomical, and genomic similarities with humans.” Among the advantages of using mouse as a model are – a relatively short generation time (9-10 weeks from being born to giving birth) and the fact that females breed prolifically in the lab.

Insights into cancer

The paper by Ursa Lamprecht Tratar et al highlights that the use of existing mouse models in cancer research is of utmost importance as they explore the causal link between candidate cancer genes and carcinogenesis, and can provide models to develop and test new therapies.

The mouse as a model for human cancer research has proven to be a useful tool due to the relatively similar genomic and physiological characteristics of tumour biology between mice and humans. Mice have several similar anatomical, cellular, and molecular characteristics to humans that are known to have critical properties and functions in cancer.

Are U.S. Research Institutions Making Mice Transgender?

क्या अमेरिकी अनुसंधान संस्थान चूहों को ट्रांसजेंडर बना रहे हैं?

U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that millions of dollars are being spent to make mice transgender.

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने दावा किया कि लाखों डॉलर चूहों को ट्रांसजेंडर बनाने में खर्च किए जा रहे हैं।



- Fact-checkers reported that **Trump likely misinterpreted** a report from the **White Coat Waste Project**, which stated that **over \$10 million** had been spent on research involving **mice, rats, and monkeys**.

फैक्ट-चेकर्स ने बताया कि ट्रंप ने संभवतः **White Coat Waste Project** की रिपोर्ट को गलत समझा, जिसमें कहा गया था कि **\$10 मिलियन से अधिक** चूहों, चूहों और बंदरों पर किए गए शोध में खर्च किए गए।

The Meaning of 'Transgenic'

'ट्रांसजेनिक' का अर्थ

- The term **transgenic** means an organism whose **genome has been altered** by introducing **foreign DNA** from another species.
'ट्रांसजेनिक' का अर्थ है एक ऐसा जीव जिसका **जीनोम विदेशी डीएनए जोड़कर बदला गया हो।
- Transgenic mice are used for **scientific research**, not for **changing gender**.
ट्रांसजेनिक चूहों का उपयोग वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान के लिए किया जाता है, न कि लिंग बदलने के लिए।

Purpose of Transgenic Mice in Research

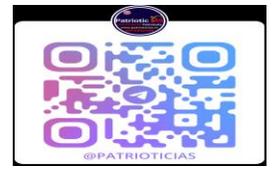
अनुसंधान में ट्रांसजेनिक चूहों का उद्देश्य

- Transgenic animals include **fish, poultry, rabbits, pigs, sheep, goats, and cattle**, apart from **mice**.
ट्रांसजेनिक जानवरों में **मछली, मुर्गी, खरगोश, सूअर, भेड़, बकरी और मवेशी**, चूहों के अलावा शामिल हैं।
- Scientists use **transgenic mice** to study **genetic functions, cancer research, and disease treatments**.
वैज्ञानिक ट्रांसजेनिक चूहों का उपयोग **आनुवंशिक कार्य, कैंसर अनुसंधान और रोग उपचार** के अध्ययन के लिए करते हैं।
- **Knockout mice**, where a specific gene is silenced, help researchers understand **biological functions**.
नॉकआउट चूहे, जिनमें एक विशिष्ट जीन निष्क्रिय किया जाता है, वैज्ञानिकों को **जैविक कार्यों** को समझने में मदद करते हैं।

Insights into Cancer Research

कैंसर अनुसंधान में अंतर्दृष्टि

- Transgenic mice help scientists **study tumor biology** and **test new cancer treatments**.
ट्रांसजेनिक चूहे वैज्ञानिकों को **ट्यूमर जीवविज्ञान का अध्ययन** और **नए कैंसर उपचारों का परीक्षण** करने में मदद करते हैं।
- Due to their **genetic similarities to humans**, mice serve as **effective models for medical research**.



मानव के साथ आनुवंशिक समानता के कारण, चूहे चिकित्सीय अनुसंधान के लिए प्रभावी मॉडल के रूप में काम करते हैं।

Easing FPI threshold can induce capital inflow, say experts

SEBI's decision to raise the limit for granular disclosures to ₹50,000 cr. 'balances regulatory oversight with market attractiveness'

GS Paper III: Capital Market
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) decision to increase the threshold for FPIs to start making granular disclosures, to ₹50,000 crore, may increase capital inflows amid relentless selling by foreign portfolio investors (FPI) and ease the compliance burden on genuine investors, according to experts.

In its Q4 board meeting on Monday, SEBI increased FPI investment threshold for granular disclosures to ₹50,000 crore from the earlier ₹25,000 crore citing doubling of cash equity markets in the past couple of years. This means foreign portfolio investors, who invest more than ₹50,000 crore in Indian stocks, will have to disclose details of beneficial ownership and returns of FPIs among other details of the investing entities.

"We are providing the kind of regulations which will really facilitate it [investment in Indian markets]. We are in no way wanting to scare anybody away or things like that," said SEBI chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey in a media briefing on Monday.

The revised norms are an amendment to the circular dated August 24, 2023, which brought in additional disclosure norms

Investor friendly

SEBI's move to increase FPI investment threshold to ₹50,000 cr. may ease compliance burden on genuine investors



- Tough granular disclosure requirement had made compliance difficult

- Many FPIs had diluted their positions in India to fall below the threshold of ₹25,000 crore

- SEBI's latest decision hailed as pro-growth and pro-investment

for FPIs to bring in more than ₹25,000 crore into Indian markets and invest more than half of their portfolio in a single entity.

The 2023 circular was seen as a move to prevent entities from flouting public shareholding norms and stock price manipulation using the FPI route, as alleged by shortseller Hindenburg against the Adani Group. "It is expected to enhance capital inflows, improve market depth, and ensure greater transparency. It simplifies compliance for mid-sized and small sized FPIs, encouraging greater participation in Indian equities, while reducing the compliance burden significantly," said Mahavir Lunawat, chairman of the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) and group founder of Pantomath Financial Services Group.

"Because of the sheer size of their portfolio, they were getting caught into

the granular disclosure requirement, which is always not a very easy one," said Siddharth Shah, partner at Khaitan & Co, a Mumbai-based law firm.

He further said India probably might have been the only emerging market where this level of granular data was being sought, making compliances for such funds very difficult.

Responding to such a requirement, many FPIs may have diluted their positions in India to fall below the threshold ₹25,000 crore to avoid getting caught into this level of compliance and this in some way may have been one of the factors contributing to the sell-off by FPIs in the Indian market, Mr. Shah added.

"Overall, SEBI's decision is a pro-growth and pro-investment move, balancing regulatory oversight with market attractiveness," Mr. Lunawat said.

Easing FPI Threshold Can Induce Capital Inflow, Say Experts

एफपीआई सीमा में राहत से पूंजी प्रवाह को बढ़ावा मिल सकता है, विशेषज्ञों की राय

SEBI has raised the threshold for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to make granular disclosures from ₹25,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore.

SEBI ने विदेशी पोर्टफोलियो निवेशकों (FPIs) के लिए विस्तृत खुलासे की सीमा ₹25,000 करोड़ से बढ़ाकर ₹50,000 करोड़ कर दी है।

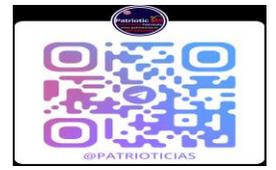
- This move aims to increase capital inflows and ease compliance burdens on genuine investors.

इस कदम का उद्देश्य पूंजी प्रवाह को बढ़ाना और वास्तविक निवेशकों पर अनुपालन के बोझ को कम करना है।

Reasons Behind SEBI's Decision

SEBI के निर्णय के पीछे के कारण

- In its Q4 board meeting, SEBI cited the doubling of cash equity markets over the past two years as a reason for this change.



अपनी Q4 बोर्ड बैठक में, SEBI ने पिछले दो वर्षों में नकद इक्विटी बाजारों के दोगुना होने को इस बदलाव का कारण बताया।

- FPIs investing more than ₹50,000 crore in Indian stocks must disclose **beneficial ownership and investment details**.

₹50,000 करोड़ से अधिक भारतीय शेयर बाजार में निवेश करने वाले एफपीआई को लाभकारी स्वामित्व और निवेश विवरण का खुलासा करना होगा।

- SEBI Chairperson **Tuhin Kanta Pandey** stated that the new regulations are designed to **facilitate investment without discouraging investors**.

SEBI के अध्यक्ष तूहीन कान्त पांडेय ने कहा कि नए नियम निवेश को आसान बनाने के लिए बनाए गए हैं, निवेशकों को हतोत्साहित करने के लिए नहीं।

Background and Impact

पृष्ठभूमि और प्रभाव

- The **August 24, 2023, circular** required FPIs bringing in more than ₹25,000 crore to make **detailed disclosures**.

24 अगस्त 2023 का सर्कुलर ₹25,000 करोड़ से अधिक निवेश लाने वाले एफपीआई को विस्तृत खुलासे करने के लिए बाध्य करता था।

- This was aimed at **preventing market manipulation** and ensuring compliance with **public shareholding norms**, following allegations against **Adani Group by Hindenburg**.

इसका उद्देश्य बाजार हेरफेर को रोकना और सार्वजनिक शेयरधारिता मानदंडों का पालन सुनिश्चित करना था, हिंडेनबर्ग द्वारा अडानी समूह पर लगाए गए आरोपों के बाद।

- Experts believe this revision will **enhance capital inflows, improve market depth, and increase participation in Indian equities**.

विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि यह संशोधन पूंजी प्रवाह को बढ़ाएगा, बाजार की गहराई में सुधार करेगा, और भारतीय इक्विटी में भागीदारी बढ़ाएगा।

Challenges and Compliance Issues

चुनौतियां और अनुपालन समस्याएं

- **Siddharth Shah (Partner, Khaitan & Co.)** stated that India was possibly the only emerging market requiring such **granular disclosures**.

सिद्धार्थ शाह (साझेदार, खैतान एंड कंपनी) ने कहा कि भारत शायद एकमात्र उभरता हुआ बाजार था, जहां इतने विस्तृत खुलासे की आवश्यकता थी।

- Many FPIs may have **reduced their holdings below ₹25,000 crore to avoid compliance burdens**, contributing to **FPI sell-offs**.



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कई एफपीआई ने ₹25,000 करोड़ से कम होल्डिंग बनाए रखी ताकि अनुपालन के बोझ से बचा जा सके, जिससे एफपीआई बिकवाली बढ़ी।

- Mahavir Lunawat (Chairman, AIBI) called SEBI's decision pro-growth and pro-investment, balancing regulatory oversight with market attractiveness.

महावीर लुनावत (अध्यक्ष, AIBI) ने SEBI के फैसले को विकासोन्मुख और निवेश समर्थक बताया, जो नियामक निगरानी और बाजार आकर्षण के बीच संतुलन बनाता है।

BHIM 3.0 launched with option to track shared expenses

BHIM 3.0 Launched with Option to Track Shared Expenses

BHIM 3.0 साझा खर्चों को ट्रैक करने के विकल्प के साथ लॉन्च किया गया

GS Paper III

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) wholly owned subsidiary NPCI BHIM Services Ltd. (NBSL), on Tuesday, launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0 with enhanced features for users and new offerings for businesses and banks.

BHIM 3.0 will be rolled out in phases across platforms, with complete availability expected by April 2025. "BHIM 3.0 is designed to meet the needs of today's users in the fast-evolving world of digital

payments. Built for Bharat, it prioritises safety, convenience, and inclusion," said NBSL CEO Lalitha Nararaj. Users can split bills with friends and family seamlessly. For dining out, rent payments, or group purchases, the BHIM app now allows users to divide expenses and make payments directly.

Users can now onboard family members, track shared expenses, and assign specific payments.

This feature enables better financial planning by giving families a consolidated view of their expenses, the NBSL said.

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s wholly owned subsidiary NPCI BHIM Services Ltd. (NBSL) launched Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) 3.0 on Tuesday.

नेशनल पेमेंट्स कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया (NPCI) की पूर्ण स्वामित्व वाली सहायक कंपनी NPCI BHIM सर्विसेज लिमिटेड (NBSL) ने मंगलवार को भारत इंटरफेस फॉर मनी (BHIM) 3.0 लॉन्च किया।

- BHIM 3.0 will be rolled out in phases across platforms, with full availability expected by April 2025.

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BHIM 3.0 को चरणबद्ध तरीके से लॉन्च किया जाएगा, और यह अप्रैल 2025 तक पूरी तरह से उपलब्ध होगा।

- Designed for digital payments in India, BHIM 3.0 prioritizes **safety, convenience, and inclusion.**

भारत में डिजिटल भुगतान के लिए डिज़ाइन किया गया, BHIM 3.0 सुरक्षा, सुविधा और समावेशन को प्राथमिकता देता है।

New Features for Users

उपयोगकर्ताओं के लिए नए फीचर्स

- Users can now **split bills seamlessly** with friends and family for dining out, rent payments, or group purchases.
उपयोगकर्ता अब दोस्तों और परिवार के साथ बिल को आसानी से विभाजित कर सकते हैं, जैसे बाहर खाने, किराए के भुगतान या समूह खरीदारी के लिए।
- The **BHIM app allows tracking shared expenses** and assigning specific payments.
BHIM ऐप साझा खर्चों को ट्रैक करने और विशिष्ट भुगतानों को असाइन करने की सुविधा देता है।
- This feature **enhances financial planning**, giving families a **consolidated view of their expenses.**
यह सुविधा वित्तीय योजना को बेहतर बनाती है, जिससे परिवारों को अपने खर्चों का समेकित दृष्टिकोण मिलता है।



Concerns About Underestimation

अंडरएस्टिमेशन को लेकर चिंता

- ILO's estimate of 48.8% coverage is still lower as it does not include in-kind benefits like food security and housing or state-administered social protection schemes.
ILO द्वारा 48.8% सामाजिक सुरक्षा कवरेज का आकलन अभी भी कम है, क्योंकि इसमें खाद्य सुरक्षा और आवास जैसी वस्तुगत लाभ योजनाएं या राज्य सरकारों द्वारा संचालित सामाजिक सुरक्षा योजनाएं शामिल नहीं हैं।
- The actual social protection coverage is expected to be much higher once these factors are considered.
इन कारकों को ध्यान में रखने के बाद, वास्तविक सामाजिक सुरक्षा कवरेज कहीं अधिक होने की उम्मीद है।

Collaboration with ILO and States

ILO और राज्यों के साथ सहयोग

- The Labour Ministry is working with ILO and State Governments for a national social protection data-pooling exercise.
श्रम मंत्रालय, ILO और राज्य सरकारों के साथ मिलकर राष्ट्रीय सामाजिक सुरक्षा डेटा संग्रहण अभ्यास पर काम कर रहा है।
- State Labour Departments are compiling state-specific data and sharing it with the Central Government for verification and de-duplication.
राज्य श्रम विभाग राज्य-विशिष्ट डेटा संकलित कर रहे हैं और इसे सत्यापन और डुप्लिकेट हटाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार के साथ साझा कर रहे हैं।

Expansion of ESIC Coverage in Uttar Pradesh

उत्तर प्रदेश में ESIC कवरेज का विस्तार

- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has expanded its coverage in Uttar Pradesh by notifying 15 additional districts under the ESI Scheme.
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम (ESIC) ने उत्तर प्रदेश में 15 अतिरिक्त जिलों को ESI योजना के तहत अधिसूचित करके अपना कवरेज बढ़ाया।
- Now, 74 out of 75 districts in Uttar Pradesh are fully covered under the ESI Scheme, marking a significant step towards worker social security.
अब, उत्तर प्रदेश के 75 में से 74 जिले ESI योजना के तहत पूरी तरह से कवर किए गए हैं, जो कर्मचारियों की सामाजिक सुरक्षा की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम है।